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Iain R Webb looks at the great debate

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THE TIMES

No. 64,586 MONDAY MARCH 8 1993 45p

Major faces defeat tonight

Euro-sceptics snub cabinet plea for unity

BY PHILIP WEBSTER CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

■ The bitter battle among Tory MPs over Maastricht reaches a critical stage as the government faces a reverse that could further delay ratification

A DEFIANT "no surrender" message yesterday from the Conservative Euro-rebels has left the government struggling to avoid a defeat in the House of Commons today that could force a further big delay over ratification of the Maastricht treaty.

After a weekend of intense pressure from John Major and his cabinet colleagues, including warnings that the government's legislative programme was in jeopardy, the Euro-sceptics vowed last night to continue their fight. Among those refusing to bow were members of the important 1922 executive whom ministers have hinted should be thrown out at the next committee elections.

A combination of Labour, Liberal Democrat and Tory MPs is expected to inflict a severe blow on the government tonight unless it backs down over its attitude to the treaty's European Committee of the Regions.

A defeat would mean that the government's hopes of pushing the Maastricht bill through without a report stage would be dashed. There would be another delay of several weeks while MPs were given the opportunity to debate fresh amendments and new clauses and the desire of ministers to push the bill through by the summer could be thwarted. The government's only option tonight may be to accept the principle of the Labour amendment on which the vote is based.

Maastricht established an important new committee to enable the views of the regions of the EC to be consulted on policies. The Labour amendment would ensure that the 24 UK members would be elected councillors, which the government opposes.

It emerged yesterday that the government was involved in negotiations with the Liberal Democrats last week in an attempt to head off defeat tonight. Ministers told the Liberals privately that they would ensure that the regions committee had Liberal representation. The talks broke down when the Liberals insisted on proportional representation. It is understood that there were also talks with the Scottish National Party.

The efforts underlined the desperation of ministers to avoid defeat. Because the committee stage of the Maastricht bill is being taken in the Commons chamber, a report stage can be avoided if the bill is not changed in committee. One successful amendment means that a report stage will have to be taken.

The arithmetic is against the government. Even after their mauling in the 1922 committee ten days ago, some 21 Tory rebels voted with Labour on a procedural motion. With the 20 Liberals committed to supporting the amendment, a similar figure would easily defeat the government.

There were signs last night that the weekend cabinet offensive against the rebels had backfired. Sir Ivan Lawrence, MP for Burton, said: "The threat that I would be removed from the executive of the 1922 committee is too silly for words. I was not appointed by the government, but elected by fellow backbenchers. This just makes me angry and strengthens my resolve ... to be consistent with my beliefs."

Mr Major said at the Tory central council meeting at Harrogate at the weekend that with a majority of only 20, "disunity is a luxury we cannot afford". The tactic was aimed at the soft core of some 40 Tory MPs who have not voted with the government on procedural motions, lengthening the debates.

Yesterday David Mellor, the former cabinet minister, accused the rebels of self-indulgence and frustrating parliament. He said: "When they started out, they were not even household names in their own homes."

James Cran, MP for Beverley and one of the rebel leaders, said: "Our stance is 'no surrender'. We will not be moved by the onslaught directed at us this weekend."

Leading article, page 15

EC tries to speed peace as Bosnia aid is stepped up

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN BELGRADE

AS EUROPEAN Community foreign ministers meet in Brussels today to discuss ways to end the Bosnian war, UN aid officials on the ground are this week concentrating the international relief effort on supplying the Muslim enclave of Sbrenica.

American airdrops are also targeting the shattered town as the fleet is boosted to six Hercules C130 planes, the US military reported. The planes delivered more than 38 tonnes of food and medicines.

Up to 60,000 Muslims, including thousands from Serb-occupied areas of Bosnia, are reported sheltering in Sbrenica, desperately short of food and medical supplies. Lyndall Sachs, for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, in Belgrade, said that General Philipe Morillon planned to go to Sbrenica on Wednesday.

"We're ready to go in with a convoy the next day," she said. General Morillon is due to meet General Ratko Maldic, the Bosnian Serb commander, to discuss a ceasefire.

With the EC's efforts to engineer a peace agreement in Bosnia proving futile so far, European ministers are keen not to be seen lagging behind the UN-sponsored Vance-Owen package. The ministers meet at a difficult time while the UN peace talks have been suspended, and the Bosnian government and rebel Serbs have returned home for consultation with their colleagues.

A Sabena airliner en route to Israel with 147 people on board landed at Belgrade yesterday after a warning was received that terrorists would hijack the plane, officials said. The warning was later dismissed as a hoax.

Leaders fly back, page 8

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Tories considering tax on child benefit

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are considering taxation of child benefit as they look at long-term spending trends, Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, disclosed yesterday. There were practical problems, he said, but it was an issue to which attention had turned in all parties.

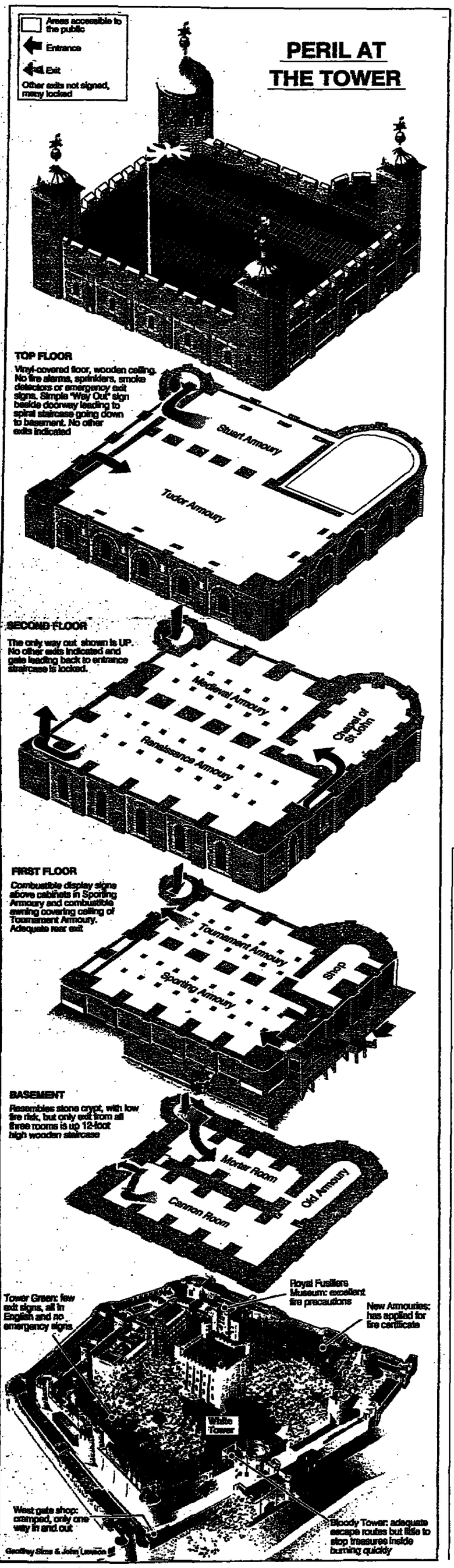
Mr Lilley pointed out that taxation was more difficult under the new system of independent assessment of husbands and wives than it had been when couples' earnings were jointly taxed. Tory MPs who support taxation of child benefit accept there are problems, not least that the benefit is paid to wives. Unlike a working wife, therefore, a non-working wife would not pay the tax. However, asked on *The World This Weekend* on BBC Radio 4 if the tax were being considered, Mr Lilley replied: "It is probably being considered by every party."

Government sources said the Tory manifesto pledge to continue child benefit for all families did not preclude the option of taxing it.

Mr Lilley declined to give details of his department's review, but it is known that he is considering several options to curb the cost of invalidity benefit, which has trebled to £6 billion in the past five years.

Child benefit, which costs £5.4 billion a year, is paid to 6.75 million mothers. If the £9.65 weekly payment for the first child were taxed at the standard rate, it would in effect be reduced to £7.24.

Peter Riddell, page 14



Historic British buildings at risk of deadly fire disasters

BY TONY DAWE AND JACK CROSSLEY

HUNDREDS of government and historic buildings, housing thousands of workers and residents, are exposed to unnecessary fire risks, a *Times* enquiry reveals today.

Fire experts describe safety measures as "lamentable" and label the government "the worst fire safety manager in the country".

Because of a medieval legal anachronism, 8,000 buildings, including the Tower of London, the Palace of Westminster, Windsor Castle and most government offices, enjoy crown immunity from prosecution under fire protection laws.

On Wednesday, a report by the National Audit Office, which found "important gaps in fire prevention coverage of crown premises", will be considered by the Commons public accounts committee. One member, Alan Williams, condemned crown immunity as an "enormous scandal which must be lifted". The MP said: "Any firm which behaved with such cavalier disregard for life and property would be in the deepest trouble."

His call is backed by fire brigades, civil service unions and safety experts. "People deserve the same degree of protection wherever they work," the Chief Fire Officers' Association told the MPs.

Among crown buildings at risk is the Tower of London, which has nearly two million visitors a year. A safety expert who surveyed it for *The Times* reported that the White Tower, is a potential firetrap, with no fire alarms and insufficient emergency exits and signs. The only marked way out on the second floor was up a winding staircase, "an uninviting prospect for anyone caught in a fire".

The poor safety standards contrast with other parts of the Tower of London, including the Jewel House, which have good fire precautions.

Tower officials rejected the criticisms and said that attendants could clear visitors from the White Tower by unmarked exits.

Taxpayers have to pay for fires on crown properties and will face much of the £40 million cost of repairs to Windsor Castle.

The guarantee of fire safety in a building is a fire certificate and, although occupiers of crown premises are not obliged to apply for one, most do. Enquiries by *The Times* reveal that 6,000 of the 8,000 premises have applied, but 2,600 have not got one.

Among those without a certificate are the Palace of Westminster, described as "a tinderbox" 14 years ago, Buckingham Palace and the Foreign Office. The lack of certificates arises in part from a shortage of inspectors in the Home Office's crown premises inspection group. In 1988, it was meant to have 38 inspectors, but had only two. Today it has 27.

Stewart Kidd, director of the Fire Protection Association, said the government's attitude was lamentable. It was "the worst fire safety manager in the country".

The Home Office said: "There is little evidence that the lack of statutory enforcement controls for crown premises detract from the certification process. Crown inspectors have little difficulty in gaining entry to premises for fire safety inspection."

Leading article, page 15

Firetraps beyond the law: special enquiry
by *The Times*, page 5

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REAL SHERRY IT COMES ONLY FROM SPAIN

Cabinet split over how to tackle rise in crime rate

By Jonathan Prynn

DIFFERING views within the cabinet over the causes of Britain's rising crime rate surfaced yesterday as two senior ministers gave conflicting accounts of the impact of social conditions on law-breaking.

The public split between Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, and Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, on the issue came the day after John Major highlighted another trend — explicit violence in films and television — as a cause of crime.

Mr Clarke, a standard bearer of the liberal wing of the Tory party, said on London Weekend Television's *Walden* programme that while crime was "essentially a matter of individual responsibility," social factors played their part.

"Certainly the more you improve social conditions, the more you improve the actual mores of society, people's attitudes towards each other, then of course you're more likely to minimise crime, particularly if you have an effective criminal justice system as well," he said.

Mr Clarke's apparent admission that social deprivation and high levels of crime are related contrasted with the views expressed in an earlier BBC radio interview by Mr Lilley, one of the cabinet's leading Thatcherites. Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, Mr Lilley said that history showed there was no link between the state of the economy and levels of crime. "We know that when poverty, unemployment and housing were infinitely worse before the war, people did not take to crime," he said. He also pointed out that during the economic boom of the 1980s, crime rates continued to rise as rapidly as during the recession. "There are very good reasons for wanting to get unemployment and poverty and bad housing away, but we would still be faced with a crime problem and we must look elsewhere for its causes," he said.

Rather, attention should turn towards "the relationship between crime and the deteriorating moral climate on the one hand and the disintegration of the family on the other", he said.

The prime minister selected the subject as one of the main themes in his speech to the Conservative central council in Harrogate on Saturday. He denounced screen violence and asked makers and distributors of films and videos to "be careful what you show". Mr Lilley yesterday echoed Mr Major's call for restraint by broadcasters. "I'd like them to be saying, 'should we be broadcasting very explicit scenes of violence?' before they do so," he said.

However, the view that screen and real-life violence are related was rejected by a number of broadcasters. Alan Yentob, the controller of BBC1, said on *Breakfast with Frost* that he had seen no evidence to suggest a causal link.



Clarke: social factors connected to crime



Lilley: no link between economy and crime



Royal spectacle: the Prince of Wales sharing a joke yesterday with Bruno Sprecher, his Swiss mountain guide, during his skiing break at Klosters. William Rees-Mogg, page 14

Ministers decide London should expand to the east

By Philip Webster and John Lewis

A BLUEPRINT for the biggest London development this century, stretching 30 miles east along the Thames and including hundreds of thousands of new homes, is to be unveiled by the government later this month.

The plan for the so-called east London corridor will mark an important shift on government thinking on development in the South East by declaring that if and when London expands, growth should be to the east and not to the over-developed west.

The proposals, from Michael Howard, the environment secretary, and John MacGregor, the transport secretary, will open up the way for new road and rail links, including the east London Channel tunnel terminal, homes, offices, shops, schools and small businesses. Much of the detailed decision-making will be left to local planning authorities, who will have to come forward with their own locally generated projects.

Mr Howard is understood to have toned down the original plans for a new "linear city" along the Thames, east from Bow and Bermondsey, put forward by Michael Heseltine, his predecessor.

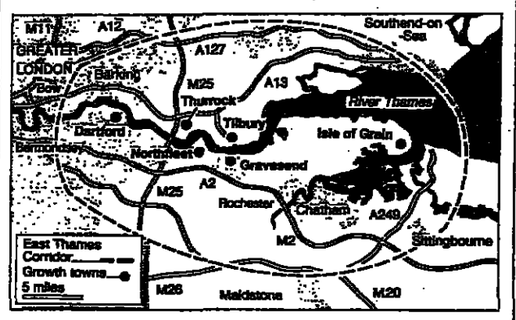
Those plans were attacked as grandiose and over-ambitious by Conservative as well as Opposition MPs. Mr Howard is believed to have ruled out some of the more radical ideas, such as those for new universities and hospitals.

However, senior ministers accept that while the recession has hit the property market and jobs in London, the capital could come under pressure from growth again later in the decade and early in the next century. The objective behind the new plans will be to provide a "safety valve" for London to grow in a planned way.

Mr Howard is to publish a study by the planning consultants Llewellyn-Davies into the potential of the corridor, the government's response, and regional planning guidance on how the government sees the South East developing to the year 2006. The housing targets are based on figures from Serplan, the regional planning body of local authorities, which envisages the building of about 855,000 homes over that period.

Mr Howard and Mr MacGregor have decided that the government cannot afford to repeat the mistake of Docklands, where new homes and offices were built without the transport links to serve them. The proposals will therefore be tied to the planned Channel tunnel terminal at Stratford, and there could be new toll roads and rail franchises.

The environment department is expected to emphasise housing while the Llewellyn-Davies report is understood to have urged the need to change the grubby image of the east Thames corridor, and has proposed heavy spending on landscaping main roads such as the A13. They also proposed substantial encouragement for shopping, industrial and community schemes.



Miners back strike over pit closure plan

Miners' leaders will plan industrial action this week after a vote by members of the National Union of Mineworkers to strike over proposed pit closures. The union executive will meet on Thursday in Sheffield to agree the timing of a 24-hour stoppage in a rolling programme of industrial action.

A total of 21,424 NUM members (60 per cent) voted to strike, with ten of the union's 13 areas backing action. Only Scotland, north Wales and the white-collar section opposed a strike, which Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, said was the "next essential step" in the campaign to save all 31 pits on British Coal's original closure list. British Coal said the vote was reckless and would harm customers' confidence. The result of a strike ballot by pit deputies in Nacods, to be announced tomorrow, is likely to be a "yes" vote, officials say. A vote on a strike by members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union over job losses at British Rail will be known later this month. Officials expect a "yes" vote. All three unions could strike on the same day to maximise impact.

£150m beach clean-up

A £150 million project to clean up sea water along bathing beaches has been approved by Michael Howard, the environment secretary. The decision will enable North West Water to start work on a new high-tech sewage treatment plant at Fleetwood Marsh, north of Blackpool, and bring bathing water off beaches in the area up to European Community standards by the end of 1996. Only 11 of the 33 beaches in the North-West region, which runs from northern Cumbria to Merseyside, meet EC bathing water standards. While the new plant is being built, North West Water will try to improve water quality by disinfecting sewage before it is pumped into the sea.

Life in films honoured

Douglas Slocombe, director of photography on films that range from *The Lavender Hill Mob*, *The Italian Job* to, more recently, the Indiana Jones trilogy, won a lifetime achievement award at last night's Bafta Crafts award ceremony. In the film section, *The Last of the Mohicans* won awards for best cinematography and best make-up, and *Strictly Ballroom* awards for best production design and costume design. Kevin Costner's *JFK* won for best editing and sound. In the television awards, the BBC's 40th anniversary tribute to the Queen, *Elizabeth R*, won for best factual editing and best factual sound, and Michael Palin's *Pole to Pole* took the best factual photography award.

Welsh bombs verdict

Dewi Prysor Williams, 25, of Bronaber, Gwynedd, and Sion Roberts, 21, of Llangefni, Gywnedd, have been found not guilty of conspiring to cause explosions. Roberts was found guilty on Saturday of possessing incendiary devices with intent to endanger life or cause serious damage to property. Today the jury at Caernarfon Crown Court will decide on a further charge against Roberts of sending letter bombs. He and Gareth Davies, 34, of Gwalchmai, Gwynedd, face a charge of conspiring to cause explosions.

Maori treaty for sale

The document of the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi, by which Maori chiefs ceded sovereignty of New Zealand to Britain, is to be sold at Sotheby's on July 19. Since the chiefs could not write their names, their intricate facial tattoos were drawn instead, thus identifying them individually. Strong interest is expected from the National Museum of New Zealand in the two-page vellum document, which is estimate to fetch £80,000. It is being sold by a private collector in Australia whose family has owned it for about 70 years.

Diners flock back

Many of Britain's top restaurants are enjoying their busiest period for three years, reporting a mini-boom in January and February, usually the quietest months of the year, the Restaurateurs' Association of Great Britain says. Reservations were well up on the same period last year and several restaurants that had considered making cuts are thinking about taking on extra staff, David Harrold, the association's chief executive, said. The boom is not only in London but as far afield as Birmingham, Leeds and Scotland.

Horse found dead

Detectives were investigating two more incidents involving horses yesterday. An eight-year-old horse was found dead in fields at a riding centre at Par, Cornwall. A vet who examined the animal could not immediately establish a cause of death. In the second incident, a horse was stabbed in a field near a riding school near St Austell, Cornwall.

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Major's reshuffle will keep powder dry until next year

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN Major is expected to reconstruct the cabinet in the middle of next year, allowing new faces to be brought in and more senior members to step aside as the Conservatives begin looking towards the next general election.

A much more limited reshuffle, possibly involving moving Norman Lamont from the Treasury, is firmly on the cards for this summer, informed sources have disclosed. As reported in *The Times* on Saturday, Mr Lamont will launch a determined fight to stay as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Next year's reshuffle is expected to see Sir Norman Fowler, the Conservative party chairman, brought back into the government in one of its most senior positions, possibly home or foreign secretary. It could also see the departure from the government of Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, whom friends believe does not want to stay in office throughout the present parliament.

Mr Lamont's decision to battle for his job comes in the face of persistent speculation that Mr Major intends to move him. The Chancellor's friends make plain that after the Budget on March 16, he intends to take a much higher profile and launch a "charm offensive" with the media.

Confidants emphasise that if Mr Lamont is moved he will be given another senior post in the government. One possibility is a straight swap with Mr Clarke; another is a move to become defence secretary.

Apart from Mr Clarke, the main candidates to replace him are John MacGregor, the transport secretary, and Michael Howard, the environment secretary.

The Times disclosed on Saturday that Mr Clarke's friends have denied as mischievous suggestions that he does not want the job of Chancellor.

Sir Norman has told the prime minister that he wants to stay at Conservative Central Office to see through his reforms to the party's organisation and finances, although Mr Major wants him back in the government at some stage.

Brown urges NI 'holiday'

By Jonathan Prynn

EMPLOYERS should be given a three-month holiday from paying national insurance for new staff to encourage recruitment, Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, said yesterday.

Speaking on the BBC programme *On the Record*, Mr Brown called for a Budget to "get people back to work" and "build the productive capacity of the economy".

The government should pay for up to a year the employers' national insurance contributions of any staff taken on during the next three months, he said. He also proposed a scheme of small business grants to help companies invest and recruit through the recession. Both schemes would be financed by closing tax loopholes.

Clark puts name forward for Newbury

By Jonathan Prynn and Arthur Leathley

ALAN Clark has become the first former government minister to throw his hat into the Newbury by-election ring, four days after learning that he would not face charges over the Matrix Churchill affair.

Mr Clark, 64, who retired from Westminster at the last election, confirmed on the BBC *Breakfast With Frost* programme yesterday morning that he was putting his name forward.

He will be one of more than 400 Tory aspirants bidding to defend the 12,357 majority, won at the general election by Judith Chaplin, who died last month. Other former ministers who lost their seats have shied away from the seat, partly because of the expected sharp swing against the government.

However, Mr Clark said that the requests of friends and the "drug" of politics had persuaded him to seek a return to the Commons. "I think that one can't really pontificate on politics, one can't express one's opinion with the weight that one would like unless you have the endorsement of the electorate."

Local Conservative association officials would not comment on Mr Clark's move, but said that no pre-determined criteria had been laid down for the selection of the candidate, despite some local pressure to select a candidate with Newbury connections. "We want to look at all the candidates and pick the best," said David Banham, the agent for the west Berkshire association.

The evidence of Mr Clark, a former defence minister who unexpectedly stood down from the safe seat of Plymouth Sutton last April, led to the collapse last November of the case against three Matrix Churchill directors accused of breaking arms sanctions on Iraq.

The Crown Prosecution Service looked into alleged inconsistencies between his statements to Customs officials and what he said in evidence, but said he would not be prosecuted.

Thousands call over HIV gynaecologist

By Lin Jenkins

THOUSANDS of former patients of a gynaecologist who is seriously ill after being diagnosed HIV-positive telephoned hospital helplines at the rate of a hundred an hour yesterday.

Medway health authority, Kent, opened the lines after learning of Terence Shuttleworth's condition on Friday. The identity of the director of gynaecology and obstetrics was disclosed so that steps could be taken to allay fears among the 17,000 women he treated over the past decade. He is estimated to have been involved in more than 6,000 operations.

More than 3,500 former patients telephoned All Saints' Hospital at Chatham yesterday and more than 80 ignored advice not to panic and turned up at the hospital. Seventy-six asked to have blood tests.

More than 60 doctors, counsellors and support workers are staffing the 40 helplines. Results from the first blood tests are expected later today. Only a few women are considered to be at risk.

At the nearby private Alexandra Hospital, where Mr Shuttleworth did work for Bupa, counsellors offered advice to more than 2,500 callers — more than double the number of patients he actually treated there.

Ken Hesketh, district general manager of the authority, said: "There has been a surge of interest at this time. In the early days we are expecting to have quite a heavy workload." Similar provisions are being made for patients at the Alexandra Hospital.

The authority estimates that, since Aids became prevalent in Britain ten years ago, 6,000 women have been operated on by Mr Shuttleworth, who is in his fifties. Dr Ann Palmer, director of public health, said that the risk was not more than theoretical.

"There is no evidence that any patient has ever contracted HIV from an infected doctor or health care worker," she said. The only slight risk was where the surgeon had performed invasive surgery such as caesarean sections or hysterectomies. In most births there was no risk.

Dr Palmer said it was not known when Mr Shuttleworth contracted HIV but it was unlikely that he became infected through his work. He was last on duty on Tuesday at All Saints'. On Friday, the health authority was told by the health department that he had been diagnosed as HIV positive and was undergoing hospital treatment elsewhere.



Advising: Chatham helpline staff yesterday

A health department spokesman said that Mr Shuttleworth knew a few weeks ago that he had contracted the virus. "As soon as he realised he was HIV positive, he stopped performing invasive surgery." Dr Palmer, who was unable to say whether Mr Shuttleworth had fully developed Aids, said that he could return to work if his medical condition permitted. He could not again undertake "front-line" surgery.

Mr Heskith said that Mr Shuttleworth, known to friends as Tim, had begun working in the area over ten years ago. He had suffered a couple of bouts of illness earlier this year but there had been no indication of his condition. "As far as I am concerned, it happened very suddenly," he said.

Joe Jordan, honorary secretary of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, said: "He did a good job in a non-teaching hospital, he was conscientious and well-liked." Mr Shuttleworth qualified at St Andrews Medical School in Scotland in 1962, according to *The Medical Directory*. After doing house jobs in Aberdeen he worked at Birmingham maternity hospital and University College Hospital, London, before moving to Medway in the early 1980s.

The helpline numbers are 0634 818363, 0634 814401, 0634 818272 and 0634 813440.

☐ The health department again ruled out mandatory testing of surgeons for HIV, saying that it would be impractical and unethical (Jeremy Laurance writes).

A spokesman said that there were no plans to introduce testing but the situation was being kept under review. Health care workers who believed they might be infected were advised to take a test. Those who test positive may not take part in invasive surgery but are permitted to continue practising.

Compulsory testing "would be an extremely serious step from a civil liberties point of view", he said.

There is a gap of several months between becoming infected and the infection showing in a test. Testing could not, therefore, guarantee patients' safety, and there would be a question of how regular tests should be. For infection to occur during an operation, blood-to-blood contact would be necessary. If a surgeon's scalpel slipped and he cut his finger, there would be a theoretical risk that the virus could be passed on.

The risk of doctor-patient transmission during surgery is much lower than that of patient-doctor transmission because the doctor is exposed to larger quantities of the patient's blood. There has been no case in the world of an HIV-positive surgeon infecting a patient but two surgeons, in Africa and America, have been infected by HIV-positive patients.

A woman surgeon operating on a man with shotgun wounds cut her arm on the patient's broken ribs.

Two decades of destruction: innocent victims continue to pay the price



Devastation 1993: the shattering effects of the IRA car bomb in Bangor early yesterday which left four police officers seriously injured

Car bomb injures 4 officers

By Edward Gorman
Ireland Correspondent

FOUR police officers were badly injured in Northern Ireland early yesterday when the IRA again took its terrorist campaign to the Protestant heartland and detonated a car bomb in the co. Down resort town of Bangor.

The three men and a woman were returning to the town's police station after a patrol when a bomb concealed in a car detonated without warning. Investigating officers believe IRA members were watching the scene and used a remote control device.

The bomb, which is thought to have consisted of home-made explosives with a Semtex booster, damaged scores of shops and is likely to disrupt commercial life in the town for some weeks.

This is the second time Bangor has been targeted by the IRA in recent months. At the end of October six police officers were slightly injured and widespread damage caused by a car bomb that exploded in its high street.

The IRA has chosen Bangor because it lies in the heart of a mainly Protestant and largely middle-class area. Many security force members live there.

Sir James Kilfedder, the town's Ulster Popular Unionist MP, said he had no doubt Bangor would win in its struggle with the IRA. "Bangor has a long history and it will exist long after the IRA and the other terrorists have disappeared from the face of the earth," he said.

Pat Milligan, president of the town's chamber of commerce, was equally defiant. "The message [to the IRA] is you can come back as many times as you wish but we will not give in," he said.

Jan Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, who also visited the scene, said the damage was appalling.

The bombing is the worst incident for the RUC this year in terms of the number injured. The RUC said: "There was no warning. It was just detonated as the patrol came near it. We are perhaps fortunate there were only four involved."

☐ A soldier was injured on Saturday night after about 40 people attacked an army foot patrol in west Belfast.

☐ An internal enquiry is under way after three IRA prisoners caused thousands of pounds of damage at the top-security Parkhurst prison on the Isle of White on Friday. The Home Office said: "The three men ran amok after another prisoner, also a convicted IRA man, was moved to another establishment."

■ As the IRA's campaign of indiscriminate bombing proceeds, one survivor recalls the first attack on the capital 20 years ago

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

AT 2.51pm on March 8, 1973, Dale Wilkinson's life was shattered. An IRA car bomb planted outside the Old Bailey in London exploded 12ft from the young detective; it left him 40 per cent disabled, cost him his career and blighted his family.

Today, the 20th anniversary of the start of the IRA's mainland campaign to bomb and shoot Britain out of Ulster, Mr Wilkinson, its first serious casualty, remains haunted by his experience. In spite of 11 weeks in hospital and ten operations, pieces of shrapnel are still lodged in his body; he is deaf in one ear, cannot walk far and suffers from nightmares.

"I still think about it all the time," said Mr Wilkinson, now a civilian photographer with the Dorset police. "It never leaves your mind. It's very frightening."

Mr Wilkinson was injured on the day a group of bombers, including Dolours and Marion Price, planted four car bombs in London, one outside Scotland Yard. Two exploded, injuring 223 people, and Frederick Milton, a doorman at offices near the Old Bailey, later died from a heart attack.

Latest police figures show that, since that bloody day in 1973, there have been 515 incidents, including 487 bombings and 28 shootings, on the mainland, where IRA attacks have led to 115 deaths; Mr Wilkinson is one of 1,626 people wounded. Police have arrested 207 suspects.



Dale Wilkinson: first serious London victim



Devastation 1973: how *The Sun* saw the IRA's first mainland bomb outrage

Minutes before the Old Bailey blast, Mr Wilkinson had been told to photograph a suspect Ford Corsair outside the courts while as other police tried to clear the area.

He remembers arriving at the scene confronted, like other officers, with cars parked everywhere because a one-day train strike had hit commuters. He thinks he must have pressed the button of his camera as the bomb went off. A picture was later developed and then discarded by a dark room assistant who never realised the significance of the fuzzy image.

"I was crouched down with my camera, otherwise I would have been blown apart," he said. "It went off. I had glass falling on me and the engine from a car fell within a foot of me. All of a sudden I was lying down and had water pouring over me. My first thoughts were for the new jacket I had just bought. I did not realise I was injured until I saw blood pouring out of my arms and my legs. I was a mess."

Mr Wilkinson was taken to hospital in an ambulance packed with other casualties. When he was given a shot of morphine and moved to a ward for the terminally ill he was sure he was going to die. He passed out and did not wake for three days. He had 15 major wounds, including shrapnel in both legs and his chest, a severed main artery in his arm and facial wounds. Stationed at Snow Hill, a few hundred yards from the Old Bailey, he had joined the City force after transferring from Norfolk. He retired as a policeman in 1979 with £32,000 in compensation for injuries which required years of surgery and recuperation. He is still angry at the punishment meted out to the terrorists he describes as "scum"; at least six of the nine convicted have long been free.

After the bombers, who were arrested fleeing back to Belfast, were convicted, Commander Bob Huntley, then head of anti-terrorist investigations, thought the IRA been taught a lesson; they would think twice before returning. In his memoirs he wrote: "How wrong I was."

Hair-raising barber waxes lyrical

By Joe Joseph

"I FEEL in need of a little pep-up, Daniel. What can you do for me?"

"Just lie down," he says, "and let me give your chest a good waxing."

The fashion for male hairlessness has boomed enough for Daniel Rouah, a French barber who runs a men's skin-care salon in London, to offer this smoothing suggestion between 80 and 100 times a week.

Those of you eager to reproduce the sensation of having your chest waxed should manacle yourself to a wall, superglue Desert Orchid's rump to your chest and then shout "Giddy-up".

The reasons vary for men steering themselves towards M Rouah's shop near Baker Street station. Some cyclists or swimmers want to smooth out every last wisp of wind or water resistance. Some are bodybuilders, others Chippendale-style dancers. Some want to clear the undergrowth before a beach holiday to ensure a tan. And there are several men in the appointments ledger booked in by wives and girl friends who have made clear to their chaps that if they wanted to cuddle something matted and hairy they would go to bed with a shag-pile rug. A survey last year found that two out of three women prefer their men hairless.

Skipping manicures, pedicures, eyelash-curling, and a facial treatment made from amniotic fluid and liquidised placenta, I settled for Maria's half-hour "pick-me-up facial, specially designed for the 90s man in a hurry. Even girls' magazines have tips on facial care. You boys just read those Eagle annuals. Your skin's a bit neglected," she said before nursing it with a lime and witch-hazel mask.

Then M Rouah delivered a shaving lesson because "95 per cent of English men don't know how to. Always shave first thing, before eating. If you're upset, don't shave. Your skin will be too tense and you'll inflame it. Warm water, then use moisturiser to seal the skin. Then shaving cream. Never use the blade more than three days. Always shave downwards, never up. Never use aftershave: alcohol will burn your skin. If you want to smell, spray it on your hair or the back of your neck. Rinse your face with warm water and moisturise.

"Your skin is worth a few minutes," says M Rouah. "Your face is the first thing people notice." Unless, of course, you undo your shirt buttons first.

Airborne forces hang on to their parachutes

FEARS that Britain's airborne forces could face a future without parachute specialists as part of a defence review have been discounted (Michael Evans writes).

One option had been to eliminate the paratroop capability of the Parachute Regiment, switching to a helicopter-borne force. However this was never viewed seriously, even though the Paras have not been involved in a large-scale drop since the late 1960s.

These days the Parachute Regiment is increasingly used in an infantry role in Northern Ireland because of the pressure on staffing. But senior army officers are convinced that a parachute capability remains vital.

Suggestions first made more than 20 years ago to combine the Parachute Regiment, the Royal Marines and special forces into one brigade have also been rejected.

Yesterday Lieutenant General Sir Michael Gray, colonel commandant of the Parachute Regiment, said: "I believe the airborne capability is at a premium in relation to tactical and strategic reach. There are many scenarios in which the ability to insert paratroopers is crucial."

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That would be ridiculous.

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Treasury committee chief demands tax enquiry on Birt pay

BY ADAM FRESCO

THE tax affairs of John Birt, the director-general of the BBC, took a new turn last night when the chairman of the Treasury select committee called for an Inland Revenue investigation.

John Watts, Tory MP for Slough and the committee's chairman, has called for an enquiry amid a growing controversy over Mr Birt's finances. It was revealed last week that his salary, believed to be about £150,000, was paid into his private company, making him liable for tax on only part of his income.



Watts: "It may be the BBC itself is at fault"

Mr Watts said: "I will be calling directly for an Inland Revenue investigation. There is a very good case for them to go back over a few years and look over the accounts to see if the treatment was correct.

"It seems appropriate that they should be having a look at what the BBC did. It may be that the BBC itself is at fault. We could raise the issue when the Inland Revenue gives us evidence on their annual report, but I will be mentioning this early this week."

Mr Watts said that if it was found that Mr Birt should have been paying national insurance contributions and tax on his full salary, the corporation might be liable to pay back tax and insurance.

Mr Birt, who became director-general two months ago after being deputy since 1987, announced last week that he was giving up his freelance status and joining the pay-as-you-earn tax system.

It was alleged yesterday that since 1980 Mr Birt had set foreign travel, electronic equipment and a £5,272 VW Golf CL against tax. The travel and subsistence expenses of £11,989 related to two business trips to Italy and the United States in 1986. Other purchases he was reported to have set against tax since 1980 included a £134 camera, a £700 desk, a £327 satellite dish, a £200 typewriter and speakers and an amplifier costing £204.

A source at the Inland Revenue said that it was unlikely that Mr Birt's attempt to cut his tax bill and then to claim thousands of pounds on expenses would not be questioned. The source said the Inland Revenue would ask if only one person could fill the post and being director-general was clearly a full-time job.

Mr Birt and the BBC declined to comment.

CRISPIN RODWELL



Fill me up, Scotty: some of the 800 enthusiasts of the television series *Star Trek* who boldly went yesterday to an hotel at Clontarf, co. Dublin, for Ireland's first "Trekkie" convention, which featured a fancy dress ball and a multiple-choice quiz

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GP fund-holders face expulsion

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A FAMILY doctor practice whose patients have been denied hospital treatment after it ran short of money is today likely to become the first to be expelled from the government's controversial fund-holding scheme for general practice.

A decision to expel the practice would deliver a serious blow to one of the main planks of the NHS reforms. The government intends to spread fund-holding, under which practices manage their own hospital and drug budgets, throughout the country, but the failure of one of the first practices chosen to enter the scheme will raise doubts about the capacity of the rest to succeed.

The practice of Dr Harry Smith and partners at Far Lane Medical Centre, Sheffield, overspent its £1.1 million budget by £100,000 last year and is forecast to overspend again because it is referring patients for treatment "too fast" to pace its budget throughout the year, according to Sheffield family health services authority (FHSA). Since October, it has asked consultants to give opinions on some patients, but not to treat them.

Trent regional health authority is to decide the future of the practice today after receiving a recommendation from the FHSA that its fund be withdrawn. Practices in the fund-holding scheme are allowed to keep any savings they make from their budget, but the region has to foot the bill if they overspend.

The Far Lane Medical Centre, whose problems were highlighted in *Fundholding* magazine, was among the first wave of 293 fund-holding practices, chosen as likely to succeed. The failure of a "first waver" is likely to send shudders through the health department over what may happen when less well-organised and less highly motivated practices are given budgets to manage.

Only 1.1 per cent of GPs are fund-holders, but this percentage will double in April, when a further 600 practices join the scheme.

Peter Tish, assistant general manager of Sheffield FHSA, said the authority had been supportive to the practice but was still not happy with the way things were run. "You can't clear your waiting list in the first three months and then find you don't have enough money for the rest of the year. It is more prudent to attack your waiting list in the last three months of the year."

David Blunkett, shadow health secretary, said the case illustrated the problems created by the NHS market. "Patients have suffered as a result of the problems in this practice and I fear these difficulties will be repeated elsewhere."

Girls make their mark at English

BY BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION REPORTER

GIRLS are racing ahead of boys at school in English, inspectors report today. The achievement gap is widening with boys falling victim to the low expectations of teachers.

Girls are catching up in traditionally male-dominated subjects such as mathematics and science, but boys' weakness in English has not attracted the same public attention, the Office for Standards in Education says.

Research shows that girls win higher grades at school until 16, with boys turning the tables at A level. One in eight boys has the equivalent of three A grades at A level, compared with one in 11 girls.

Inspectors said that girls outshone boys at GCSE in English in 1991 with 15 per cent more gaining grades A to C, and twice as many embarking on A-level courses. In contrast, there was a "persistent vein of low achievement" among boys, who made up the majority of pupils struggling with reading and writing.

Girls read more fiction and poetry, used school libraries more often, wrote at greater length, generally received higher marks for essays and became more involved in activities outside the classroom such as theatre visits.

Inspectors, who based their report on visits to more than 50 schools between 1988 and 1991, pointed to girls' more positive attitudes and said the influence of the teacher was the crucial factor determining how boys did in English.

☐ *Boys and English* (DFE Publications Centre, PO Box 2193, London E15 2EU)

Schools to draw up moral code

BY OUR EDUCATION REPORTER

A CRUSADE is planned by government advisers to make every state school draw up a moral prospectus informing parents of the values that underpin its teaching.

Teachers will be encouraged to debate the spiritual and ethical code they hope to instil in pupils and devise a public statement detailing their school's approach. The move by the National Curriculum Council will bolster a two-pronged government strategy to give moral education a higher priority.

John Patten, the educational secretary, called on Friday for a meeting of church leaders to help to draw up a national blueprint to strengthen religious education. From September, inspectors will have to assess and summarise the standard of moral and spiritual guidance in each school every four years.

David Pascall, chairman of the council, hopes to win approval next month to distribute a document to all schools that is designed to fire debate about classroom ethics. It is expected to provoke discussion by questioning at what age children should know it is right to be truthful, keep promises, take personal responsibility for their actions and respect other people's rights and property.

Sir Ron Dearing, who takes over from Mr Pascall next month as head of the council's successor body, the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, regards moral education as a top priority.

Education, page 31

The eyes have

Child drinkers prompt calls for tighter alcohol curb

Charity's head talks of fraud

The eyes have it as electronic surveillance covers every move

By Nicholas Watt



BARELY a step can be taken in Britain's city centres today without blameless shoppers or the occasional villain being spotted by Big Brother's electronic eyes, the omnipresent security video cameras.

The high-profile use of security videos in the James Bulger murder case and the recent Harrods bombing revealed what a brief walk through central London readily confirms, electronic surveillance is now part of our everyday life.

In a four-mile walk, this correspondent noted no fewer than 84 surveillance cameras trained on him.

Starting in Knightsbridge (see map), Harrods has installed discreet green cameras outside the store after a series of bomb attacks. Harvey Nichols and the Hyde Park Hotel have chunkier versions mounted on their outside walls.

In the next block, passers by have more difficulty spotting the cameras stalking their every move past the London Park Tower Casino.

Robert Antich, who was passing the casino, was unruffled by the cameras. "I don't mind as long as they don't catch me in an embarrassing position," he said. "You have got to deal with terrorists somehow."

Park Lane lives up to its status as a royal blue Monopoly board street with the largest number of video cameras seen on the stroll. Thirteen surveillance systems peer down, from a discreet glass eye above the door of an exclusive apartment block to large swivelling cameras outside the Grosvenor House Hotel. The London Hilton, the target of bomb attacks, has hidden its cameras; in common with every other hotel on the walk it refused to discuss security.

Turning right into Oxford Street, scene of several IRA bomb attacks, the number of cameras surprisingly fell. But cameras on Selfridges track the step of every pedestrian outside. Airline offices in Regent Street have sophisticated systems and smaller cameras in six other shops also monitor passers by.

Pall Mall, which houses London's clubland, provides the second most impressive number of cameras after Park Lane. All five clubs, from the Athenaeum to the United Oxford and Cambridge, have swivelling cameras that can pick out unwanted company at night with infra-red lights.

St James's Palace has many cameras and visible armed guards. In St James's Street, cameras on the Carlton Club were a reminder that such gadgetry is only as good as its human operators. When the IRA bombed the club in 1990, detectives lost what might have been vital clues because the cameras were switched off.

The Ritz on Piccadilly has discreet swivel cameras. The military clubs all have elaborate surveillance systems, starting with the Naval and Military in Palmerston's old house up to the Royal Air Force club where the stroll ended.

Police say the deployment of cameras leads to a dramatic fall in crime. In Airdrie, Strathclyde, crime has dropped by 75 per cent after ten video cameras were mounted in the town centre last November, partly financed by traders.

Chief Insp Graeme Pearson, head of Airdrie police, said: "Fraud has fallen and vehicle break-ins have dropped from about fifty a month to one or two. Even the street cleaners tell us the streets are cleaner." Detection rates have doubled to 70 per cent.

In central Newcastle upon Tyne, a new surveillance system is helping police to deal with small incidents before they get out control. Chief Insp Bob Pattison said: "Operators monitoring the pictures radio to officers on the ground who then head straight to a disturbance and nip it in the bud before fists fly." Crime fell by 13 per cent in central Newcastle in the first two months of this year after police installed 16 cameras in the £400,000 scheme.

Acting Supt Matthew Baggott, of Peckham police, south London, said: "We will cover the whole of Peckham High Street with cameras. We see them as an essential way of restoring confidence."

Liberty, the campaign group, welcomed the use of video cameras in public places to crack down on crime. But Alison Vickers, campaign director, said she was concerned there were no statutory controls. "There is no limit on who has access to the tapes and when they should be erased. The cameras are useful if they reduce crime but we don't know whether they shift the problem elsewhere."

☐ THE closed circuit television cameras deployed across Britain's cities, industrial estates and shopping malls are evidence of one of Britain's biggest growth industries of the past 20 years (Nick Nuttall writes).

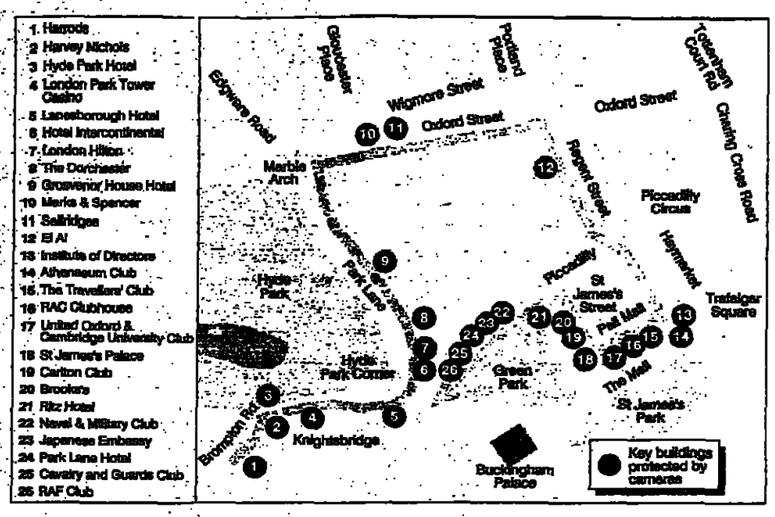
Up to 300,000 security cameras are sold in the UK each year and more than a million are probably installed. One industry expert said: "I have seen a figure which suggests that in the western world each city dweller is imaged six times a day. In the UK it is probably much higher."

Researchers at Edinburgh University have developed a camera on a microchip, which is just being marketed. Such devices, which could lead to cameras costing less than £100, give a low resolution fish-eye image similar to what is seen through a spy hole in a hotel room door.

Researchers at Oxford University are co-operating with GEC Marconi to develop a camera surveillance system called Yorick that can detect and focus on suspicious movements, track a speeding object and recoil if attacked.

Some remote installations, plugged into the satellite networks, open up the possibility of shoppers in London being watched by low-paid security guards employed in Third World countries. They would then alert store detectives to suspected shoplifters operating in the store via the phone.

Jeff Berg, technical manager at Dedicated Micros of Manchester, a leading maker and exporter of closed circuit TV equipment, estimates that compared with the United States, Britain is probably three to five years ahead in surveillance systems.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Guard dies after fight with raider

A security guard has died from a heart attack after tackling a masked raider in a store.

Keith Brown, 48, of Newport, Gwent, was taken to the Bristol Royal Infirmary on Saturday night after he and shoppers struggled with the robber in Gateway at Kingsdown, Bristol. The man was held until police arrived to arrest him.

Mr Brown was the first to grapple with the raider, who had demanded money from the till. Several customers then helped to subdue him in a violent struggle. Mr Brown, a married man, later collapsed and was taken to the infirmary, where he died.

Police were yesterday questioning a Bristol man aged 26.

Protest over waste plant

The European Commission has written to the government complaining that the Rechem incineration plant at Panteg in Gwent does not comply with EC safety rules on toxic and dangerous waste.

If no satisfactory reply is received, the commission could take the government to the European Court of Justice. The government has always claimed the plant is exempt from a 1982 EC directive, and that it complies with a 1978 Brussels edict on dangerous waste.

Murder charge

A man charged with the attempted murder of Joanne Sherbourne, 24, of Telford, Shropshire, found unconscious at Devil's Dyke near Brighton, was charged yesterday with murder after her death in hospital. Stephen Dallimore-Cooper, 30, a barman, of Hove, West Sussex, will appear in court at Brighton today.

Scouts rescued

A party of 21 scouts, all aged 11, from Donboyne in co. Meath, Republic of Ireland, were rescued early yesterday after spending 12 hours on a ledge 400ft above Glendalough in the Wicklow mountains south of Dublin.

Banana record

A cargo of 4,500 tonnes of bananas arrived in Southampton from the Caribbean. An Associated British Ports spokesman said it was the biggest consignment to reach Britain.

Cliff fall

Mark Pinder, 22, a Sussex University student, was critically ill with severe head injuries after falling from Stackpole Cliffs near Tenby, Dyfed, on Saturday. He was one of a party of eight students.

Crossing death

John Coupland, 15, has died after his motorcycle was struck by a train on a pedestrian crossing near his home at Goxhill, Humberside.

Early birds

Wheatears and chiffchaffs, normally summer-visiting birds, have been sighted in Dorset and Penzance.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly premium bond prize draw are: £100,000, number 27SK 483302, who lives in Devon (value of holding £5,412); £50,000, 8AW 338739, Aberdeen (£10,000); £25,000, 21DZ 089345, Southampton (£6,628).

Child drinkers prompt calls for tighter alcohol curb

By Michael McCarthy

PRIMARY school children as young as nine regularly drink alcohol, according to unpublished university research.

A survey by Exeter University's schools health education unit offers the first detailed evidence that drinking by children under 11 is now widespread and takes place mainly in the home.

More than a quarter of boys aged nine or ten and more than a third of those a year older said that they had consumed alcohol within the previous week. In almost all cases, the children had obtained the alcohol at home. The findings have brought calls for tighter parental control of children's access to alcohol and a change in the law, which makes it legal for children to drink but not in licensed premises.

John Balding, the director of Exeter University's unit, said: "I think society needs to set firm guidelines for parents about what age is appropriate for children to start drinking alcohol."

The survey, funded by local health authorities, and carried out last year, covered 3,700 children in 81 primary schools in five areas of England. It reports that 14 per cent of girls aged 9-10, and 19 per cent of those aged 10-11, said they had drunk alcohol within the past week. Of the 1,837 girls questioned, 36 had drunk alcohol on three or more days.

The most regularly mentioned drinks were shandy, beer or lager, drunk by 17 per cent of the boys aged 9-10, and 26 per cent of those aged 10-11. The figures refer to all those questioned, not just the drinkers. Five per cent of the younger boys and 8 per cent of the older ones say they drank table wine.

Mr Balding said he thought that the figures were reliable because of the methods the Exeter unit had developed for surveying schoolchildren over several years. The data are collected by teachers themselves; their pupils fill in a form anonymously, after its importance has been carefully explained to them.

The legal drinking age of five years was laid down in the Children's Act 1908, and confirmed by the Children and Young Persons Act 1933.

Eric Appleby, director of Alchol Concern, said: "I think it's crazy. Alcohol as a substance takes some handling. It's quite clear that at six years old you are not capable of dealing with it, even under supervision, yet the law allows it."

"Five is far too low," said Derek Rutherford, director of the Institute of Alcohol Studies. "The child is only protected because the majority of homes wouldn't give their young children alcohol. There is a need to protect the child in the irresponsible home."

Tower of London a potential firetrap

■ Many historic buildings are immune from fire safety laws. A Times enquiry shows the need for reform

By Tony Dawe

THE White Tower at the heart of the Tower of London, Britain's most visited historic building, is a potential firetrap.

Nothing can be done to make the authorities install modern fire precautions to protect fully the two million visitors who pass through every year because the Tower of London is a crown property, immune from prosecution.

The safety loopholes, including insufficient fire escapes, fire alarms and emergency signs, are all the more glaring because parts of the Tower of London have the latest safety measures.

Ian Jerome, a fire safety expert consulted by *The Times*, reported that the White Tower had no fire alarm system, sprinkler or smoke detection systems, that it had unnecessary combustible materials, and that diagrams indicate the layout of the four-storey building but not escape routes.

Mr Jerome, of the Fire Protection Association, said: "The authorities appear to rely on attendants to evacuate people. They must believe there would be time to do that and that any fire might take hold slowly because of the thickness of the wooden beams in the tower. The lack of fire precautions contrasts sharply with the newly refurbished parts of the Tower of London, like the Royal Fusiliers Museum and the Gallery shop, which do have smoke detectors, fire alarms and well-signed emergency exits."

David Harris, secretary of the Royal Armouries, responsible for the White Tower, insisted that precautions were adequate. He said that there were exits additional to those on our diagram and attendants could open them and direct visitors to them.

Mr Jerome found faults on all four floors of the White Tower. Visitors enter by a long wooden staircase that takes them into the first floor, with no fire alarms that they can start by breaking glass and no fire alarm, sprinkler or smoke detector systems. Emergency exit signs are absent and sporting and tournament armouries contain highly combustible exhibits, such as a fabric awning.

Like the rest of the White Tower, however, the floor does contain fire extinguishers and hose reels, which attendants are trained to use. This floor has adequate exits.

Visitors go up a narrow spiral staircase to the Norman chapel on the second floor and the medieval armoury. The only exit sign is on a pole in the far corner of the room. If people had to leave because of fire, the authorities say, they could go back down the staircase, although a gate leading to it from the adjoining renaissance armoury is locked. Mr Jerome thought the staircase "not suitable as a fire escape".

The only signed exit from the floor is up, "an uninviting prospect for anyone caught in a fire", Mr Jerome said.

The only exit indicated on the top floor, with vinyl tiles and wooden ceiling, is down a long wooden staircase to the basement, which has only one signed exit — up a 12ft wooden staircase.

Mr Harris rejected the criticism and said that each floor had at least one exit additional to those in our diagram. They were not obvious, or even open, for fear of visitors colliding with people moving in the opposite direction. Staff were in contact by radio with the Tower of London control unit.

☐ Sir Reginald Doyle, HM Chief Inspector of Fire Services, may be forced to move his department from the Home Office to Horseferry House, an older office block in Westminster. Although several hundred civil servants work there, he is refusing to move until fire safety standards are improved.



Doyle: fire inspector standing his ground



Tower inferno: the 1841 fire at the storehouse in front of the White Tower, sketched by William Oliver

Immunity from the law that puts thousands at risk

By Tony Dawe

ONE simple letter pleading for help demonstrates the deep concern about fire danger felt by hundreds of thousands of people who work in Crown properties.

"The Home Office has not visited our offices to carry out an inspection prior to the issue of a fire certificate. Is there anything I can do to hurry them along?" Philip James, branch secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) wrote to his union headquarters.

Mr James was dismayed because 2½ years had passed since the Official Receiver had applied for a certificate for the offices in Savile House, Leeds. He was also disturbed by an assertion by the Home Office fire service inspectorate that the very act of applying for a certificate meant that a building could continue to be used.

The answer to his question was that nothing could be done to hurry the inspectors. Fire prevention in government offices, as well as royal property, is the responsibility of the Home Office crown premises inspection group.

But the group is undermanned and has no powers to prohibit or restrict use of any crown premises.

Savile House was finally granted its fire certificate last year, six years after it had applied. Despite the risk which Mr James and his colleagues faced, they were luckier than many civil servants. For, as is pointed out in a report by the National Audit Office which comes before a Commons committee on Wednesday, hundreds of crown properties have waited ten years or more for a certificate.

Many prominent government offices in London lack fire certificates, including the Foreign Office, the Treasury, the Cabinet Office and the Millbank Tower, occupied by the trade department. The Welsh Office applied for a certificate for its headquarters in Cathays Park, Cardiff, in 1981, but because of a backlog of applications Home Office inspectors began their work only last March, 11 years later. During that time, other inspections had discovered that the arrangement of office furniture impeded escape routes.

When the Home Office inspectors completed their work last September, they reported that "some ceilings, wall surfaces, floor coverings and furniture and fittings" were not sufficiently resistant to fire and that some escape routes were still impeded. The Welsh Office should finally receive its fire certificate later this year when the remedial work is done, 13 years after the process began.

When the audit office completed its report, some 2,600 of the 6,000 crown premises which had applied for a fire certificate had not received them. The Home Office insists, however, that the backlog is being reduced steadily. A spokesman said last night: "It cannot be assumed that the lack of a fire certificate indicates that proper attention has not been given to fire safety. The issue of a certificate is the end product of a lengthy process including inspection, specifying work and its implementation."

Leading article, page 15

Company car era 'near end'

By Tim Jones
Transport Correspondent

THE recession and changes in taxation have increased pressure on the concept of the company car, according to a report published today.

Employees who regard their company car as a measure of status are preparing for more bad news in the Budget, which is likely to erode further the benefits of a paid-for vehicle. The report from the Centre for Automotive Management at Henley Management College, commissioned by Nissan Motor Ltd, says Britain may be moving into a "post company car era".

Peter Cooke, the centre's director, said: "Perhaps the prestige and status of the company car is changing. The company car is expensive and different parties in an organisation view it in different ways."

The report suggests that the company car has gone full circle. After an explosion of company car ownership in the late seventies and early eighties, the cost has come under increasing scrutiny.

A British Road Federation report published today says that in 1991-2 vehicle owners paid £20 billion in road taxes, or 12 per cent of Treasury tax receipts. Of the £20 billion, only about a quarter was spent on road improvements.

Charity's head talks of fraud

By Nicholas Watt

THE leader of the Salvation Army spoke for the first time yesterday about the alleged financial fraud that has shaken the charity.

In a message read to Salvation Army services throughout the country, General Eva Burrows said everything was being done to recover the £6.2 million missing from the charity's funds. She said: "The alleged fraud perpetrated against us and the consequent loss of large sums of money given to us in good faith presents us with a new challenge."

She said the army had been sorely tested before. "But with God's help we have always marshalled the spiritual strength to overcome. [Our] vital work must and will go on. The very best way for each of you to make your personal contribution to the resolution of our present problems is to strengthen your commitment to our task."

The army launched a High Court action last month to recover the missing funds after money was allegedly withheld from the charity.

General Burrows paid tribute to the army's 2,600 employees volunteers. "Never before has this country so desperately needed the Salvation Army's spiritual sustenance and practical help."

The way it isn't

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When he raises a giggle

The Channel 4 lecture: Three changes are needed if this nation is to be rescued from its past

Britain must move with the times to become great again

■ Britain needs a bill of rights, proportional representation, a new sense of citizenship and a changed attitude to higher education. Otherwise, says Linda Colley in the third of the Channel 4 series *Opinions*, the country's long-term decline will continue and despondency and division will grow, because the factors that made for a successful nation have largely ceased to operate



All societies are caught up in the myths and realities of their past. Britain more than most. Much of our deep despondency and division today can only be properly understood — and properly addressed — if we come to grips with how this nation emerged over time.

Contrary to what is often thought, Great Britain is not an old country. As a would-be nation *rather than just a* name, it was invented only in 1707 when Scotland was united with England and Wales. Then, as now, these three countries were divided within themselves and differed sharply in culture and outlook. Three things worked to cement them together: religion, war and an extraordinary range of success.

Unlike most of Europe, Britain was overwhelmingly Protestant, *an island in religious terms as well as geographically*. However much its people bickered among themselves, they could unite in feeling a people apart. The *sense that Britain was particularly* blessed — and that God was probably British — persisted for a very long time. Just think of the most famous photo of London in the Blitz: the dome of St Paul's Cathedral — *the parish church of the* empire as it was then called — soaring unscathed amid the smoke and rubble surrounding it. Here was a perfect image of Britain as God-land.

The fact that Britain was so often at war made this sense of a special Protestant destiny all the more powerful. War is a tragedy, but there is no doubt *that it played a vital part in the* forging of Great Britain, distracting us from our internal differences.

We tended to win our wars and carved out the biggest empire the world has ever seen. We prided ourselves on Parliament and our constitutional freedoms. Britannia ruled the waves and our *commerce flourished alongside* our navy. We became the workshop of the world. No *wonder that people were* proud to be British. Being British paid.

The problem now, of course, is that being British no longer pays. The factors that made for *a successful British nation* have largely ceased to operate: we are no longer a Protestant *island; there are now more* practising Roman Catholics in Britain than practising Anglicans, more Muslims than Methodists. Success of any kind has become elusive.

The empire has gone: parliament no longer commands the respect that it did, and we no longer feel that we enjoy greater freedoms than any of our European neighbours. *Naval and commercial* supremacy have long since gone; so have the triumphs of our *industrial revolution*. No wonder, then, that in a recent opinion poll almost 50 per *cent of Britons asked said that* they would like to leave this country; even more said that *they could think of nothing* about Great Britain of which they were still proud.

So *what is to be done?* Nations rise and fall. Nothing will ever make us number one again, so we should not be over-fixated on lost glories. Nor should we forget that we are still a fairly prosperous, extraordinarily peaceful and highly civilised nation enjoying a better standard of living than is available to most in the world today.

But we do need to recognise that Britain's *present problems* are real and deep-rooted. So much of what gave us identity and *purpose in the past has simply* ceased to operate.

If we are to approach the *future with confidence and* hope, we need to rethink substantially what it means to be *British*. How can we make Britain a more inspiring and more fulfilling place to live in? Let me suggest three possible courses of action.

First, we need a new set of constitutional arrangements. Partly we need this for Wales and Scotland. For most of this century, the Conservatives have enjoyed only limited electoral success in these two countries. One of the results of their long tenure of power recently has been growing *alienation in the so-called* Celtic Fringe. That is not a recipe for healthy democracy, *nor is it a recipe for a happy* and long-lasting Union. We need an adjustment of the *constitution to provide for* greater self-government in Wales and Scotland.

But we need much more than that. Our first-past-the-post electoral system has allowed a single party to monpolise government for 15 years without it ever needing to achieve a majority of all the votes cast. Prolonged one party government always leads eventually to arrogance and fatigue on the ministerial side, and to apathy and lack of experience among the opposition parties.

Its consequences outside Westminster are *still more* serious. That a majority of Britons can vote against a *government, and yet that* government can still persist in power, does not encourage *confidence in the fairness of* our democracy. And — given the extent of Britain's problems — *is it really sensible to* restrict power for so many years *to just one* set of individuals with just one set of partisan ideas? Clearly not. Proportional representation would give us more diverse and flexible government: it would let in more talent and new ideas, and it might restore public confidence that voting can really make a difference and that being a citizen is a privilege that counts.

Constitutional reform should not stop with the Commons. The House of Lords needs reassessment, as *does the monarchy*. Those pundits who argue that reforming the royal family would turn it into a bicycling, Scandinavian-type monarchy exhibit a lack both of imagination and of historical understanding.

Our monarchy has undergone constant changes over the centuries. That is why it *has survived*. Now we are no longer an imperial power, all today's pomp and circumstance is an anachronism. The monarchy should be adjusted so that it can again become an *effective national symbol*.

Second, Britain needs what many other countries already *take for granted*, a *bill of* rights.

In the past, Britons prided themselves, with some cause, on their superior freedoms. We took it for granted that there should be written constitutions setting out the proper limits of government authority and individual rights. We had Magna Carta. We had the Bill of Rights of 1689. We had the Act of Settlement. Now we need a new bill of rights, a written constitution that can fit us for the *future and* bring us into line with the rest of Western Europe. *We should have a* freedom of information act and we should have a proper exposition of what are our rights as citizens.

> 'The alienation of the Celtic Fringe is not a recipe for a healthy democracy, nor for a happy and long-lasting Union'

Few people are ever going to feel very enthusiastic about the current citizen's charter: it is too mundane and far too modest. By contrast, a citizen's charter that really tackled the issue of citizenship, that set out the rights that each and every Briton had as his birthright, could be deeply exciting.

Whatever happens to the Maastricht bill, Britain is bound in the future to become increasingly caught up in the European union. Part of the *reason this arouses so much* apprehension is because of our deep uncertainty at present about who we are.

If, by carrying out constitutional reform and by implementing a bill of rights, we could forge a new pride in British citizenship, instead of being a cause for anxiety, Europe might then seem the opportunity that it is.

Third, Britain must change its attitude to higher education. One of the reasons why Britain lost its early industrial lead at the end of the 19th century was because it failed to invest sufficiently in research and education. *We did not* make even primary education compulsory here until 1870, long after the United States and most of our European *competitors*.

This meant, of course, that our workforce was not as highly skilled as it should have been. But the problem went much deeper than that. Victorian Britain failed to invest the money and thought in *engineering* and scientific research that Germany did, for example. And it sent far too few of its people to university.

By the end of the 19th century, every American state had its own public university. This country did not really begin to catch up until the Robbins reforms of the 1960s. Although our university system has expanded rapidly since the second world war, it has still not expanded at the same rate as the university systems of many of our competitors. Nor have our attitudes to higher education changed; we still do not respect *learning and research* as we should and as our competitors do.

Some improvements are already under way. British universities are now taking far more students than ever before. Polytechnics have been given university status so they and their students no longer need feel second-class citizens. But even if these old and *new universities* receive adequate funding — which they *will not — these changes by* themselves are insufficient. There remains a rooted belief in this country that higher education is an expensive indulgence, an optional extra. This must change. As our competitors know very well, higher education is not a luxury, it is a cold-blooded investment essential for economic success.

Last year, this government had a marvellous opportunity to signal its support for higher education. What was once the GLC's headquarters at County Hall could have become a new home for the London School of Economics.

The ball was at the government's feet and it promptly fell over it. Instead of going to the LSE, the GLC building — which was designed for the public good — has been sold to the Japanese to build an hotel. If you want an emblem of this country's decline, there it is.

□ *Britons*, by Linda Colley, a professor at Yale *(Yale University Press;£18.95)*

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Speakers will include Alan Clark, the historian, former Defence Minister and first contributor to the series. Other participants will include the radical lawyer Michael Mansfield QC, Sheila McKechnie of Shelter, Michael Winner, the film director, and Professor Paul Kennedy, the author of *Preparing for the Twenty-First Century*.

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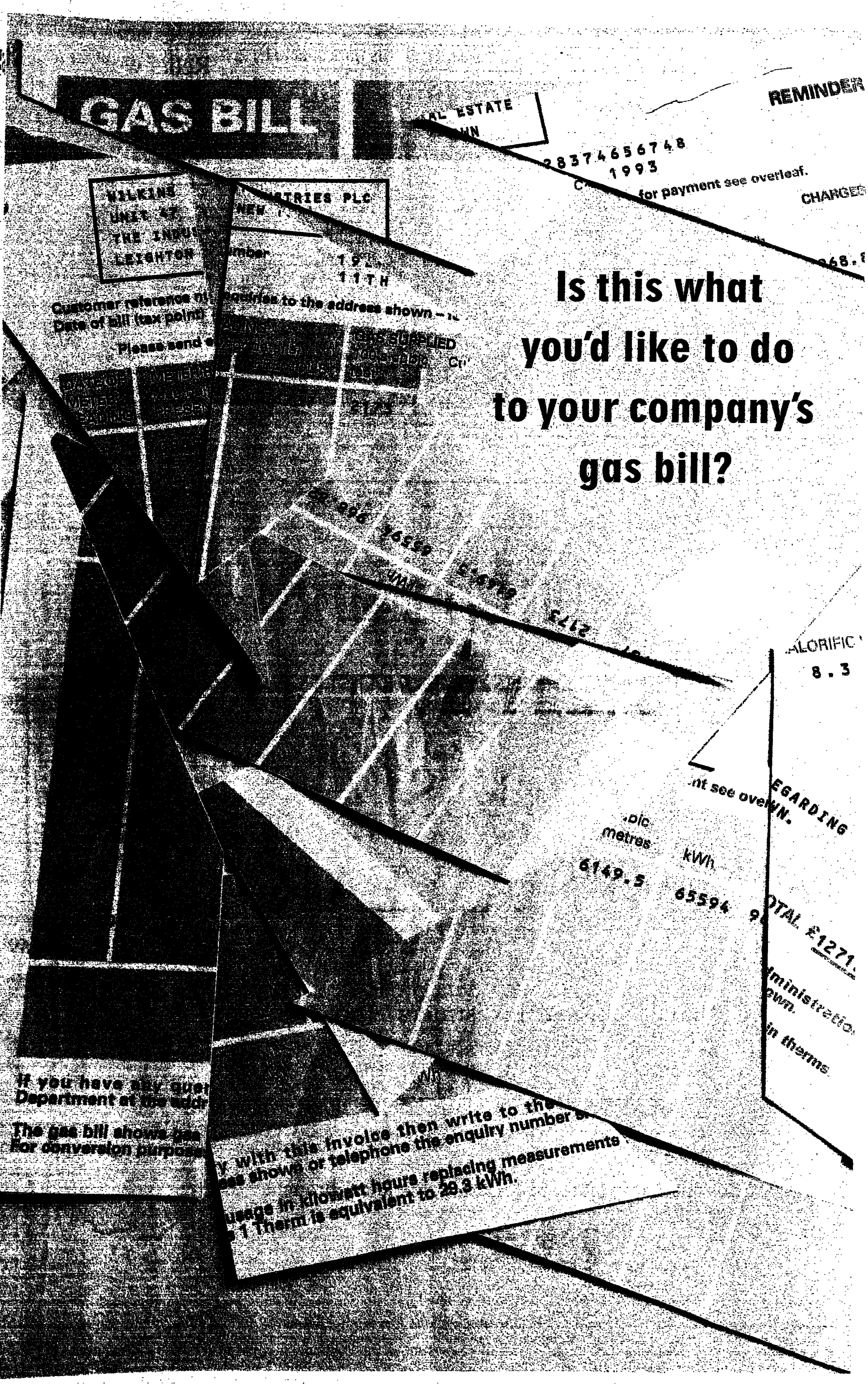
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UN peace talks in balance

Suffering eclipses Bosnia diplomacy

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN BELGRADE

THE diplomatic dance around the wreckage of Bosnia was temporarily suspended at the weekend as Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian president, said he was returning from peace talks at the United Nations to Sarajevo to consult colleagues.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, also announced he would be leaving New York to return to Serb-occupied Bosnia for consultations. "We are going home to think everything over and over again to try to find possibilities for further compromise," he said.

On the ground the carnage and destruction continued, making the minutiae of the Owen-Vance peace plan, which would divide Bosnia into ten provinces, a bizarre sideshow.

United Nations officials in Belgrade painted a horrific picture of conditions in the besieged village of Konjevic Polje, where many refugees are waiting to flee, probably to the northern city of Tuzla. A temporary hospital has been set up in Konjevic Polje to try to cope with more than 70 casualties.

Wounded civilians in the village are having their limbs amputated, Lyndall Sachs, for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Belgrade, said. "People have been severely wounded by mines, shrapnel, bullets and grenades. They have lost limbs and there are very few antibiotics and bandages."

UN officials claim that many civilians have fled to Konjevic Polje from the Muslim town of Cerska, which fell to the Serbs at the end of last week. Until aid officials are allowed freely into the region it will be impossible to find out what happened in Cerska.

Serbs say that they believe a campaign of demonisation is being organised against them so successfully that much of the world now believes they are capable of anything no matter how bestial. All last week UN officials in Belgrade were quoting a handful of Muslim ham radio operators in eastern Bosnia, who claimed that Serbs were massacring their way across the country, even using poison and teargas.

The 1,500 wounded civilians said last week to be sheltering in Konjavic Polje now appear to number just 70 seriously injured. Aid officials now say their priority is to move them. "The figures are not important. What matters is the principle of free access to them," Ms Sachs said.

More than 2,000 wounded needed immediate evacuation from Srebrenica. Sir Donald Acheson, the World Health Organisation special representative to former Yugoslavia, said in Tuzla on Saturday. A WHO official in Srebrenica reported that between 20 and 30 people were dying there every day from infections complicated by malnutrition.

Relief stepped up, page 1



Show of hands: General Philippe Morillon crossing his fingers as he reported that Cerska had fallen to Serb forces but he had found no evidence of atrocities

Relief workers wait in anger for Serbs to release refugees

■ The old and sick are being prevented from leaving Sbrenica. Aid teams fear far more than the current 20 deaths daily

FROM BILL FROST IN TUZLA

A vast empty sports hall in Tuzla, northern Bosnia, yesterday bore witness to the failure of the United Nations to secure the release of thousands of refugees trapped by increasingly fierce fighting around Muslim-held enclaves.

Relief workers made no attempt to disguise their anger and disappointment that Serb commanders had refused to allow the elderly, the sick and the wounded to leave the beleaguered pocket of Sbrenica. Just hours earlier, they had filled the Tuzla sports hall with mattresses, emergency rations and medical supplies in the hope that General Philippe Morillon, the UN commander in Bosnia-Herzegovina, could negotiate a deal.

Sir Donald Acheson, a special representative for the World Health Organisation, described conditions in Sbrenica as appalling. "We know that at least 20 people a day are dying of hunger and disease. There is no morphine, and Serb gunners are deliberately targeting makeshift hospitals.

"Something must be done to get these people out, and done very quickly. Otherwise a lot of civilians are going to be dead in Sbrenica," he said in Tuzla yesterday.

At least 2,000 sick and wounded are in the enclave, according to reports reaching Tuzla yesterday. In a ham radio broadcast, Dr Simon Mardell, a British doctor working behind Muslim lines, told relief workers in Tuzla that the mortality rate, excluding war casualties, was running between 20 and 30 people a day. He said that thousands of refugees had recently arrived from the neighbouring Cerska area, which is now in Serb hands.

Dr Mardell, who went through the line by himself on foot, said the siege of Sbrenica appeared to have tightened yesterday. The enclave was under increasingly fierce bombardment.

Ham radio operators heard in Tuzla described how Serb forces had been mopping up the last of Cerska's Muslim defenders. Those who had sought shelter in cellars or ruined buildings were "flushed out" by dogs or with teargas bombs. The Muslim fighters, along with women and children, were then executed.

Over the weekend, General Morillon visited Cerska and afterwards said he found no evidence of any Serb atrocities or mass starvation either there or in Konjevic Polje. Serb soldiers were in complete control and there were no civilians left in Cerska, he said on Saturday. "Cerska has been heavily shelled and many houses burnt, but there are no signs of a massacre," he said. "I am an old soldier. I have experience with the smell of death and I did not smell it there."

The French general was the first Western observer to reach Cerska since its capture. His failure to uncover evidence of any atrocities contradicts reports before the enclave's fall from ham radio operators in eastern Bosnia, which apparently influenced President Clinton's desire to step up sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia.

Relief workers yesterday remained to be convinced. "The general was not there for long enough, and was only shown what the Serbs wanted him to see. We have had persistent, similar and altogether credible accounts of massacres from many different sources," one aid worker said yesterday.

A ham radio operator broadcasting from the edge of the Cerska area yesterday described the general's mission as "a tourist trip". He said that 100 grenades had landed on his village just that morning and 70 people had been wounded.

The operator, who identified himself as Sardik, said: "Please let somebody come so the wounded can be taken out. General Morillon was on a tourist trip at the weekend. He was shown two destroyed houses. I could show him 24 more like that in our village. Someone must come before it is too late."

The conditions demanded by Serb commanders before they will release the tens of thousands trapped by the offensive in eastern Bosnia include safe passage for their own people trapped behind Muslim lines. They have asked General Morillon to arrange that they be allowed to visit the Tuzla area to see how Serbs are being treated by the Muslim authorities.

While some military observers see the request as a cynical delaying tactic while the offensive continues, others point out that Serbs behind Muslim lines have already found themselves in a crossfire. There are reports that should they refuse to fight against their own, the Serbs are compelled to dig trenches on the front line.

While the negotiations continue and fighting intensifies, the sports hall in Tuzla remains empty. "All sides make promises only to break them. And while the haggling goes on, hundreds of innocent people are dying, hundreds we could save if only there was even the spark of a will for peace," said one relief worker as the rumble of a distant artillery duel echoed across the mountains.

Nato struggles over peace force control

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

NATO governments secretly planning the peacekeeping deployment to accompany any agreement to partition Bosnia are struggling over who would control it.

A series of improvised truces between the states contributing to existing United Nations forces in what was Yugoslavia has until now prevented tensions coming into the open. But the possibility that America, Britain, Russia and France may have to field 60,000 men to enforce any fragile deal on the Owen-Vance plan to divide Bosnia between Muslims, Serbs and Croats is pushing conflict to the surface.

A team of Nato officials led by Michael Legge, a Whitehall official, has just returned from UN headquarters in New York where they discussed contingency plans for a multinational force. Nato's planners estimate that 60,000 troops may be required in Bosnia for up to a decade. Britain and France have signalled that they are reluctant because their armies are already overstretched and because soldiers might have to enforce, and not simply monitor, any ceasefire.

Talks in New York did not loosen the political deadlock over who would run any such operation. In-fighting continues over how orders would be passed from the UN to troops in the field and whether a rainbow of contingents, including Russians, can be linked under a single commander. France is likely to stay away from a Nato rapid reaction force formed recently



Dumas: wants civilian to be in command

despite protests from President Mitterrand.

Key military officials in Washington, London and Paris are in no doubt that a such a huge operation can be pulled together only by Nato, even if ultimate political authority stays with the UN and non-Nato troops join in.

The first UN force to reach the Balkans was assembled and managed from New York and is regarded by Nato's experts as a disaster never to be repeated.

France, however, still insists on keeping Nato's public profile and power to a minimum. Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, told fellow Nato foreign ministers that a peacekeeping operation should be run by a special civilian representative of Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, and should not be sub-contracted to "any group of countries, whether they are a defence organisation or not".

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Russian power struggle puts aid high on Clinton agenda


Nixon: advising Clinton on Russian policy

BY ROGER BOYES

YELTSIN AND WESTERN AID

■ The hardline backlash in Moscow is threatening moves to a market economy. The US is eager to invest in protecting reform

WESTERN aid to Russia, put on the backburner because of the Bosnian conflict and economic problems at home, has gained a new urgency as President Yeltsin enters an epic struggle this week with the Congress of People's Deputies.

President Clinton has been putting the finishing touches on a broad aid package that will be outlined in his first summit with President Yeltsin in Vancouver next month. The immediate political point of the aid plan, supposed to create a social safety net for unemployed Russians and those most exposed to high inflation, is to keep alive not only President Yeltsin's political future but the whole idea of a rapid move to the market.

Baroness Thatcher and Richard Nixon have entered the debate on the side of sending a great deal of aid to Moscow. The former president is advising President Clinton on US policy towards Russia and how to bolster President Yeltsin's position in his power struggles with his conservative opponents.

Although the contributions from Lady Thatcher and Mr Nixon may seem marginal, both politicians reflect a more general view that the West missed an opportunity in 1991. Then the G7, which groups the seven most important industrial nations, was asked to enter a grand bargain with Mikhail Gorbachev. In return for aid on a scale reminiscent of the Marshall Plan, Mr Gorbachev would make a rush for the market. The aid package did not materialise — at least, not in the required scope — and the August coup attempt followed soon afterwards.

If nothing else, that demonstrated a certain link between Western support, backed by money, and the individual fortunes of a reform-minded leader. Professor Jeffrey Sachs, of Harvard University, who helped to set up the 1991 idea, is again making an impact on the Clinton team's proposals.

The 1991 premise was that the G7 should put up $24 billion (£16.5 billion) a year in long-term assistance to restructure the Russian economy. That figure is still in play, although President Clinton's closest Russian advisers, such as Dr Michael Mandelbaum, of Johns Hopkins University, are realistically downbeat about ever being able to drum up such a sum during a recession.

Lady Thatcher yesterday favoured a huge transfer of British resources from the European Community to Russia. "How much would we have offered ten years ago if the Soviet leadership had come to us and said we will end Communism? We would have offered a fortune," she told the *Sunday Express*. "This year we subsidise the Common Market to the extent of £2.6 billion. We could halve that and give £1.3 billion to Russia."

The Clinton package is sure to be more modest, although it will give a nod towards the rather grander ideas of Professor Sachs. A team under Strobe Talbott, the former journalist, has identified for President Clinton two important political targets in Russia: hyper-inflation and unemployment. Russia is close to the official definition of hyper-inflation: a 50 per cent monthly increase. Once it passes that threshold, economists predict that it will rise exponentially and could soon reach 1,000 per cent a month.

The ingredients of a Weimar-style collapse in the social and economic order would then be in place: reform would seem irrelevant to most Russians. Pensioners and all those in the state industries or working in public institutions would be scrambling to survive.

The International Monetary Fund has concentrated on currency stabilisation, as it did in Poland, which underwent a spurt of high inflation in 1989. American policymakers, however, have understood that they need to buttress the Russian government in order to implement a stabilisation policy. One measure under consideration, therefore, is debt relief, plus some G7 assistance ($2 billion to $3 billion is a figure under discussion) in return for some say in the running of the Russian central bank. Plainly, the political control of the central bank, which is printing money wildly, is a key element.

The proposed help for the social welfare system is supposed to give courage to Russian reformers hesitating about making workers redundant. Compared to Central European states, the Russian unemployment rate is low but may soon explode, although on the whole the experience of Central Europe suggests that high unemployment, even when it rises quickly, is not necessarily a destabilising factor in domestic politics. If anything, it is tending to depoliticise people.

Combined with reckless inflation, however, it can breed radicalise the social climate and send people running towards dangerously populist politicians. The Clinton team, therefore, is doing more than putting its chips on President Yeltsin: it is aiming at the underlying economic and social forces that could dispatch Russia for years to come.

Khasbulatov ready for head-on collision

Beleaguered Yeltsin calls for compromise

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin, facing the toughest challenge yet to his rule from hardline opponents, called at the weekend for a compromise to resolve his stalemate with the Russian parliament.

Speaking after an emergency gathering on Saturday of the so-called "power ministers" of defence, security and the interior, Mr Yeltsin said: "I favour reconciliation and an end to the confrontation between the various branches of power." At the same time, Mr Yeltsin said on television that a referendum to resolve who rules Russia should go ahead. "If the congress cancels the decision to hold a referendum — and the congress could do it — this will show a lack of trust in the people."

The ministers were meeting to devise a strategy for the Congress of People's Deputies which will convene on Wednesday to discuss the deadlock between the executive and the legislature.

Although formerly devoted to debate on the ill fated power-sharing agreement suggested by Mr Yeltsin to stave off a head-on clash and on the fate of a referendum next month, the "super parliament", dominated by hardliners, might well seek to exploit the Russian leader's weakness and call for the government to be placed under its control. Ruslan Khasbulatov, the parliamentary Speaker, Mr Yeltsin's main rival, hinted as much on Friday when he said: "The potential of this authority is almost at an end and it is trying to destabilise the legislature."

The meeting comes only two days after senior military leaders were reported to have told Mr Yeltsin to act quickly to end the conflict. The wrangle over jurisdiction in the states has passed the level of in-fighting between president and parliament and is threatening to unleash civil discord in Russia.

Pavel Grachev, the defence minister, pledged that the military would stay neutral. He told *Rossiskye Vesti*: "The army is loyal to the constitution. It will not participate in political games." Marshal Grachev is under pressure from conservatives who see the army as the key to a possible takeover of power and are capitalising on poor living conditions in the military to

POLITICS

gather support against Mr Yeltsin. Once considered a hardliner, the marshal appears to be siding with the president for the moment, but has stopped short of pledging unconditional loyalty.

The Russian leader has suggested a freeze on all constitutional changes and government control over the Central Bank, now subordinated to parliament, to save his teetering reform programme. But Mr Khasbulatov has dismissed that as an ultimatum and seems poised to use the congress, which he also chairs, to undermine Mr Yeltsin further.

Mr Yeltsin's tactics for combating Mr Khasbulatov are still far from clear. The call for a compromise comes close on the heels of a renewed threat last week to dissolve parliament rather than endanger democratic reform. It is difficult to see what kind of an agreement could be framed with parliament because Mr Khasbulatov is no longer acting as its chairman but effectively as a leader of the opposition, conducting the malleable deputies in a persistent chorus of disapproval against the president. He is intent on weakening Mr Yeltsin mortally rather than rescuing him with a deal.

Direct rule, as appealing as the thought must be to the frustrated president, is extremely risky at a time when the army is suffering from low morale and the public mood is bleak after a winter of high inflation.

The key to surviving the session will be to pull back on to his side floating conservatives who were insulted by Mr Yeltsin's immoderate attack on them at the disastrous December session. He might well use Viktor Chernomyrdin, the prime minister, as a rallying figure.

The four questions that Mr Yeltsin said would be put in the referendum are: Do you agree that the Russian federation should be a presidential republic? Do you agree that the supreme legislative body of the Russian federation should be a bicameral parliament? Do you agree that the new constitution should be adopted by a constitutional assembly that represents the multinational people of the Russian federation? Do you agree that every citizen of the Russian federation is empowered to own, use and be in charge of land in the capacity of an owner?


Living legend: a man dressed as Spartacus, the slave leader, shouts anti-Yeltsin slogans at a communist rally in Moscow yesterday calling for the restoration of the Soviet Union

President feels th wrath of mighty industrial classes

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

INFLATION and falling living standards are the central reasons why President Yeltsin goes into this week's congress with one and possibly both hands tied behind his back.

In the past, his power depended critically on his ability to pull out the crowds; in elections but also when necessary on the streets. Today, a suffering population is far less likely to come to his aid.

In the words of a Russian friend, "under Brezhnev, it was the intellectuals who criticised the state, while ordinary people tended to defend it, even if they grumbled about details. Today, it's the reverse: intellectuals may defend democracy, but most ordinary people think it has brought nothing but harm."

Both opinion polls and anecdotal evidence suggest a population thoroughly disgusted with both politics and politicians, above all because of their failure to stop the slide in living standards. The longing for a strong hand is palpable.

However, since people partly associate Mr Yeltsin with their present hardship, this does not translate into extra support for him, even though he is still more popular than his opponents in parliament.

To tackle inflation successfully the government would have to drastically cut subsidies to Russian industry and agriculture, at a time when many firms are already months behind on payments because their own payments and subsidies have been delayed. Any cuts would inevitably lead to massive growth in unemployment — still the great taboo for most Russians.

Large cuts in subsidies, characteristic of "shock therapies" in other countries, have never been carried out in Russia. When Yegor Gaidar, the former prime minister, attempted it early last year, it collapsed in a matter of weeks.

This was no surprise for such a policy threatens the most numerous and powerful classes in Russia: heavy industrial workers and managers. Under communism they were better off than any other group, except the communist and military elites.

They have been appalled by the threat to their own positions and industries, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the decline of state authority. Their shift away from Mr Yeltsin underlies his loss of control over parliament during the past year.

The increasing takeover of the government by representatives of the old managerial

[redacted]

is also a strong factor working against Mr Yeltsin.

It is not yet certain that the economy will reach hyper-inflation, defined as an inflation rate of more than 50 per cent a month. For several months now, the rate has been running at between 25 and 30 per cent. The annual figure last year was 2,200 per cent, bad enough, but still not up to Latin American standards.

If the economy does go into hyper-inflation, it could help destroy the Russian state. At that point, the present non-delivery of cash and credits to the regions could become a complete collapse of the money supply from the centre.

As a result, regions might well be forced to print their own currencies, thereby giving for themselves an essential attribute of sovereignty.

Swing to far right in Hesse

FROM REUTER IN BONN

FIRST computer projections showed a surge in support for the far-right Republicans in local elections yesterday in the west German state of Hesse.

State television said projections after elections in 33 cities and districts showed the Republicans winning 7.7 per cent of the vote compared with only 0.1 per cent in the last elections in 1989. The projection showed a decline in support for the established parties, with the Christian Democrats of Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, slipping 1.9 per cent to 32.4 per cent and the Social Democrats down 7.1 per cent at 37.7 per cent.

Voters stayed away from the election, seeming to confirm the main parties' fears that disillusionment with Germany's political establishment is spreading. Election officials said that by midday, 28.4 per cent of the electorate had voted, some five to six points down on the last vote four years ago.

The elections in Hesse, which includes the country's financial capital Frankfurt, are the only ones in Germany this year until December. Next year will be one big campaign with 18 local, state and European polls, followed by national elections in December.

The vote is the first test of grassroots views since last autumn's wave of violence against foreigners. A strong showing by the Republicans could boost the far right in next year's polls.

Leading article, page 15

New laws to contain scandal threaten Italian coalition

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

MORE cracks appeared yesterday in the already fragile coalition government of Giuliano Amato, the Socialist prime minister, as public outrage grew over decrees designed to contain the Italian corruption scandal. Opponents call the proposed new laws a whitewash.

Mino Martinazzoli, chairman of the Christian Democrat party, said he doubted that the measures, approved by the cabinet on Friday night, were constitutional. Parliament must approve the decrees within 60 days.

Carlo Ripa di Meana, the environment minister and former European commissioner who last month resigned from the Socialist party, dissociated himself from them, and Giovanni Conso, the justice minister, said controversial aspects of the decrees were originated by Signor Amato, not himself.

Among the decrees approved on Friday is one ending prison sentences for those convicted of illegal financing of political parties: fines and administrative penalties are, however, increased. Another decree is designed to prevent abuse of public-works contracts by introducing more stringent tendering requirements. A third decree sets up special regional *corti dei conti* (accounts courts) designed to prevent bribery and corruption at local level.

Perhaps the most contentious part of the package of decrees is a government bill allowing plea bargaining by politicians and businessmen who confess to taking bribes or corrupting officials. They would get reduced or suspended prison sentences in return for admitting guilt, repaying illegal funds and renouncing the right of appeal.

A spokesman for the National Association of Magistrates said: "There is the justified fear that the decree signals substantial impunity for the past and encourages violation of the law in the future." Raffaele Bertoni, a former long-serving chairman of the magistrates' association, said "this decree will impede


Ripa di Meana: denied involvement with laws

the judges from continuing enquiries on the crimes of illegal financing."

Since the so-called "Clean Hands" corruption enquiry began just over a year ago, at least 906 people, including a fifth of the 630 MPs, have received an *avviso di garanzia* notifying them that they are under investigation by the magistrates. The scandal is the biggest of its kind in Italy since the second world war.

Signor Conso presented the package to the cabinet but, in distancing himself from their genesis and the proposal that suspended sentences could be retroactive — meaning that many politicians and businessmen already convicted will go free — said: "The choice of the decree and retroactiveness was not mine but Amato's."

Critics of the government say the package may have been designed to save Bettino Craxi, the former Socialist party leader who was Signor Amato's mentor. On Tuesday a parliamentary committee is to decide if the parliamentary immunity of Signor Craxi should be lifted so that proceedings against him may go ahead on a series of charges, including illegal financing of his party.

If such illegal financing under the new decrees is no longer to be considered a criminal offence, the parliamentary committee may decide that the immunity of Signor Craxi does not need to be annulled, political sources said.

A statement by the six main judges running the Milan "Clean Hands" investigation yesterday said the government package would block enquiries and denied that the magistrates themselves had called for its provisions.

□ **Palermo:** Police in Sicily said yesterday that they had rounded up 14 people accused of helping Salvatore "Toto" Riina, the reputed Cosa Nostra "boss of bosses", to elude capture during his 23 years on the run. Riina, 62, was arrested on January 15. *(AP)*

A Parisienne in the provinces

Left looks for Norman reconquest

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN FAUVILLE-EN-CAUX, NORMANDY

On market day, dominoes come first for the stoic farmers of Normandy. They are not going to interrupt their play when a young woman in a nondescript blue coat squeezes past to find an empty table in the crowded café of Fauville.

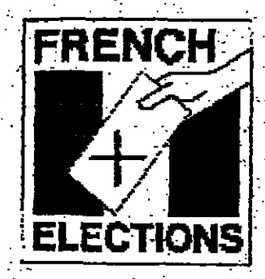
However, a few nods signal they know that the little woman ordering the *pastis* in their male midst is Frédérique Bredin, the minister for youth and sport, mayor of the port of Fecamp near by and candidate for re-election as Socialist MP for this stretch of the Seine Maritime. "Not much of a welcome out there." Mme le Ministre laughs quietly as she recovers from a cold trudge through the cattle on the market square. "Did you hear? One of them said, 'She's got a nerve coming here'."

It would be hard to find greater antagonists than the conservative, anti-Maastricht farmers of the Norman hinterland, and Mme Bredin, a brilliant Parisienne of the Socialist elite and the youngest member of the Mitterrand government. Yet, after her discreet passage between the Charollais cattle outside, a couple of old farmers allow that she has learnt a thing or two and worked hard since 1988 when, pregnant, she was "parachuted" into the constituency and took the seat by 880 votes from Charles Revet, a conservative small farmer, to become the youngest member of the National Assembly. Mme Bredin's tough return fight against M Revet offers a snapshot of the forces sweeping France as voters prepare to shrug off a discredited Socialist government in two weeks and replace it with a conservative team for which it feels little more enthusiasm.

She may be a Socialist, but Mme Bredin, whose ambition earned her the nickname "Baby Shark" at the elite ENA civil service college, personifies the way the centralised power of France feeds down to the grassroots. She believes her 18-carat connections and skills as *inspecteur des finances*, the top-ranking class of mandarins, bring unrivalled benefits to the towns and villages of Normandy.

Rivals' rally

Paris: About 40,000 supporters of the opposition leader, Jacques Chirac and his allies held a rally here yesterday, the largest so far in the election campaign. Opinion polls point to a significant win for the opposition. *(Reuter)*



M Revet, 55, as easy-going as Mme Bredin is intense, stands for provincial common sense. "We are opposites from every point of view," M Revet says, sitting in his office near Fecamp's great medieval church: adjoining the 18th-century *mairie* which Mme Bredin has held as mayor since 1989. "I was born in the community I live in and I have been mayor of Turretot [his village] since 1965. Mme Bredin is from the ENA, she is an *inspecteur des finances* and she goes on living in Paris." Across France, hundreds of M Revets can be heard railing in similar terms about the "out of touch" Paris crowd.

According to his account, Mme Bredin has neglected the infrastructure of the region and of Fecamp, a town of 22,000 which has not recovered from the collapse in the 1980s of the deep-sea fishing industry. She has also used "shocking" methods, M Revet says, to woo the electorate, taking pensioners on subsidised day trips to Paris and flying in stars from the *sports and political world*. These include Bernard Kouchner, Elizabeth Guigou and others of the *quadras*, the mediagenic "forty-something" ministers.

Mme Bredin agrees that her party is about to be defeated nationally but she scoffs at M Revet's charges about being a parachuted Parisienne. "It's typical of the demagogy of the people installed by the right in this region. They want to turn their backs on the future."

The farming vote is a minority in the constituency, she points out. Since 1988, she says, she has thrown herself into local affairs with a vengeance. Even her critics in Fecamp acknowledge this energy and respect her steel-trap mind.

"I fought for this and I am known here," she says. She has renovated council housing, kept open railway line and developed tourism, launching, among other things, a Hovercraft link with Brighton. Before the minister's post in 1991 obliged her to hand the constituency over to her substitute, she would, she says, go from village to village, fighting to keep open libraries, post offices and even telephone booths. Working as mayor and minister means coming from Paris on Thursday night and spending every weekend on the local beat.

If she wins, it will be thanks to advice from her mentor in the Elysée Palace. "Mitterrand had been an *elu* [elected office-holder] himself, he advised all those close to him to go out and put everything into tilling the soil."

Muslims face wave of hostility in US after New York bombing

FROM KATE MUIR IN NEW YORK AND RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

■ Israeli politicians see the arrest of a Palestinian over the American blast as justifying their deportation policy

ARABS and Muslims across the United States said yesterday that they faced growing hostility after the arrest of two Muslim men in connection with the bombing of the World Trade Centre.

Windows were smashed in the mosque in Jersey City where Mohammed Salameh, the accused van driver, and Ibrahim el-Gabrowny, his associate, used to worship. The discovery that Mr Salameh was a Palestinian-born illegal immigrant with a Jordanian passport immediately brought a new dimension to discussion of the bombing. On radio talk shows, callers exploded with fury against Muslims and Palestinians in general.

In Jerusalem, Israel claimed that its crackdown against Muslim militants, including the expulsion of hundreds of Palestinians, had been vindicated by Mr Salameh's arrest.

After months of being on the defensive for its alleged abuse of power in the occupied territories, the government of Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, could barely disguise its satisfaction when Mr Salameh was identified as a Palestinian from the West Bank village of Bediah.

"I assume that, with this painful and distressing event in New York, perhaps they will better understand why this government, that seeks peace, is forced to take extraordinary measures such as deporting 400 people," said Yossi Sarid, the environment minister.

The misdirected outrage in America grew as it emerged that federal agents searching the rubble and twisted metal under the twin towers had found evidence of a sixth victim of the explosion. The National Council on Islamic Affiars predicted "crazies throwing stones and firebombs" at Islamic centres and that "every Muslim would become a suspect".

Michael Warren, Mr el-Gabrowny's lawyer, complained on New York television that "the news and print media are smearing all Muslims. They are defining Muslims as those involved in terrorism." Outside a mosque on Brooklyn's Atlantic Avenue, worshippers complained of catcalls and abuse directed at the whole community. An FBI arrest of four men from the mosque, who later turned out to know nothing of the bombing, added to ordinary Muslims' feelings of being under siege.

At a press conference on Friday in Long Island, two Muslim leaders criticised the FBI and the media. Imam Isa Abdul Kareem told *The New York Times*: "The FBI acted irresponsibly. From the beginning they were using the term 'Islamic fundamentalist' when it was not necessary. If this man is found guilty, it is incidental that he happens to be a Muslim."

Islam, with four million adherents, is America's fastest-growing religion, thanks mainly to recent immigrants. Mr Salameh was a follower of Shaikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, a fundamentalist cleric, who has remained in the city and denies any involvement with the explosion. The swift arrest of Mr Salameh, 25, and the fact that he used his own name to hire the Ryder lorry that carried the explosives to the World Trade Centre, has increased speculation that he may be only "a patsy", someone left to take the blame while the masterminds behind the bomb may already have fled the country.

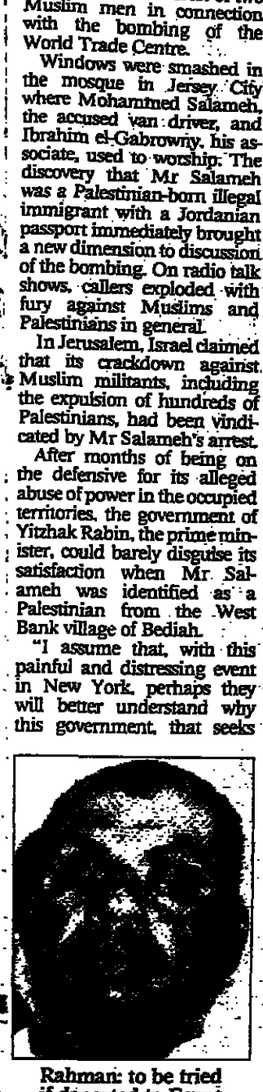
In Egypt, Amr Moussa, the foreign minister, said yesterday that if America deports Shaikh Abdel-Rahman to Egypt, he would face criminal charges there.

In New York, James Fox, head of the city's FBI office, said: "We had some major breakthroughs last week; now we have to get back to the overall investigation." Yesterday, he held a strategy meeting to piece together international and local leads related to the bomb plot.

In a self-storage locker hired by Mr Salameh near his rented flat in Jersey City, investigators identified three chemicals in barrels that could be used to make a crude form of nitroglycerine. The nitric and sulphuric acids and urea might either have been used as a booster for the main explosion at the towers or perhaps were intended for future bombings. All the chemicals can be bought without a permit or a licence.

As well as searching for bomb remains, the agents had the more grisly task of finding the last known victim. Wilfredo Mercado, 37, who worked at the centre's Vista Hotel, had been missing since the explosion. His wife and two children had been waiting for news about him. Agents said there might be some evidence that a sixth body is buried in the rubble.

☐ **Trial opens:** The trial of 49 suspected Muslim extremists charged with attacks on foreigners that have devastated Egypt's vital tourist industry will open tomorrow in Cairo.



Rahman: to be tried if deported to Egypt



Mission control: a US federal agent patrolling near the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, where the armed standoff has been going on for nine days. The authorities control the information cult leader David Koresh receives, but he controls the flow to his followers

Battle of the wives holds key to Canberra power

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

ANITA Keating, a former airline steward, and Carolyn Hewson, a merchant banker, the wives of Australia's rival political leaders, are for the first time promoting a female role in an election here.

In a political system still overwhelmed by traditional Australian male values, a virtually unheard group of women could find themselves with real power if Saturday's election is as close as the polls predict. The centre Democrat party, surely one of the world's few political parties to boast more female than male representatives in a parliament, could well hold the balance of power between Labor and the Liberal-National coalition.

A victory for John Hewson, the leader of the Liberals, would be affected particularly because the Democrats are committed to blocking key elements of his radical programme for change in the Canberra parliament. Last night, the prospect of a Liberal government collapse and another election within 12 months emerged from the final televised debate between Dr Hewson and Paul Keating, the Labor prime minister.

AUSTRALIAN ELECTION

Should Dr Hewson win, his plan to introduce a 15 per cent consumption tax and radical industrial relations reforms could be stalled, with the Aus$12 billion (£6 billion) privatisation of Telecom, the national telecommunications industry, to pay for his policies.

This is a paradox in a country where the women's movement has made little impact on macho "ocker" values that remain particularly entrenched in the world of party politics. Only at election time do the two main parties tend to remember that Australian women are the majority of the 17 million population.

That point was underlined sharply yesterday when the Democrats launched their women's policy calling for an end to social, legal and political disadvantage of Australian women. They want the two main parties, Labor and Liberal, to provide more opportunity for women by making them candidates in winnable parliamentary seats.

Launching the policy, Meg Lees, the South Australian senator, said that the low number of seats held by women showed how little they had advanced politically this century. Only ten women sit in the House of Representatives, compared with 137 men. In the Senate, there are 57 men and 19 women.

Neither Mr Keating nor Dr Hewson has any great support among women voters. Both have made generous offers of child-care support this election, but it is their wives who are seen as essential to attracting the female vote.

Mrs Hewson is a new phenomenon in Australian politics, and introduces the "Hillary factor" here. Dr Hewson's minders, and sometimes Dr Hewson himself, do not quite know how to handle her intellect and ambition on the hustings. She threw Liberal campaign managers into a panic when she compared herself with Hillary Clinton on a radio station in Perth, Western Australia, but later said she did not intend interfering in Liberal policy.

Mrs Keating, a normally shy woman in public, has been splashed across the pages of this month's *Vogue* magazine with various hairstyles and fashion outfits beyond the reach of most voters as Australia faces its deepest recession in 60 years, with a million unemployed. It was another stunt by the party image-makers to win middle-class votes.

It is all a far cry from Mrs Keating's predecessor, Hazel Hawke, the long-suffering former prime minister's wife, who finally disclosed the pain of his years of womanising in an autobiography that she published late last year.



Model image: Anita Keating in one of five full-page photographs in *Vogue Australia*

FBI mind games focus on vanity of cult 'messiah'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WACO

The siege of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, which has entered its second week, began as a bloody but straightforward shoot-out and has evolved into a subtle game of psychological thrust and counter-thrust, with the cult members on one side, the federal authorities on the other, and the media somewhere in the middle.

The strategy of the FBI negotiating team now appears to be to try to drive a wedge between the cult members and David Koresh, their fanatical leader, while persuading them that no one would be harmed if they surrendered without further bloodshed.

At a weekend press conference, an FBI spokesman said: "If he [Mr Koresh] is listening, we want to give him and his followers our assurance that he and everyone inside will be treated fairly and humanely if they come out." The FBI knows that Mr Koresh, a volatile egomaniac obsessively concerned with his reception outside the walls of his fortified bolt hole, has been watching the news closely, and the substance of media reports has formed a key part of negotiations between the two sides, according to the FBI. Access to the media may prove to be the single most crucial element in the siege, and the negotiators appeared to be focusing on Mr Koresh's Achilles' heel — his vanity.

After the gun battle at the compound nine days ago, when four federal agents were killed as more than 150 of them attempted to storm the compound, Mr Koresh made ample use of the media, granting a series of interviews for radio and television. He promised to release children in pairs if a religious message was broadcast on local radio, a promise which was largely kept; he also agreed to leave the compound with his followers if an hour-long message was broadcast last Tuesday, a deal which was most broken when Mr Koresh announced he had received a message from God telling him to wait.

After that, the authorities adapted the telephone lines so that no one outside the compound could talk to Mr Koresh without passing through FBI monitors. The authorities have also indicated that Mr Koresh would not be allowed to make any more broadcasts. Thus Mr Koresh has been reliant on the FBI for the information he receives and the image he projects: this may prove to be the agency's most powerful weapon.

Every public statement by the FBI has been, in effect, a coded message to Mr Koresh and his followers. The decision, for example, not to press charges against the two elderly women who have left the compound was plainly intended to show the remaining cult members that the authorities were not above making deals if they surrendered. The FBI's "concern" that cult members were being prevented from leaving by Mr Koresh was similarly an effort to sow discord.

Children of the cult, 21 of whom have so far been released, have also been vital tools in bringing emotional pressure on the cult members. By insisting that the children were being well cared for and emphasising that they wanted to be reunited with their parents, the authorities have been attempting to stimulate the familial instincts of those still inside. A video tape showing the children playing in the local children's home where they have been staying has been dispatched to the compound in a further attempt to loosen Mr Koresh's charismatic grip over his followers.

Medical supplies have been sent in to dress the wound to Mr Koresh's wrist, and the long scriptural discussions that he favours have been tolerated with no hint of mockery. With each concession, the FBI has been working to make the cult leader more trusting of the authorities, but also more dependent.

The cards, however, are by no means stacked entirely in the authorities' favour. While the FBI controls the flow of information to Mr Koresh, he in turn controls the flow to his followers. The only television in the building is in his private quarters and there is no evidence that the 90 adults and 17 children in the compound are allowed to watch it or listen to radios. The video tape of the released children may not even have been shown.

South African leaders agree to resume talks

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

AN AGREEMENT among 26 South African parties, administrations and organisations, which is little more than an arrangement to meet again, has been greeted with fulsome praise from the main political players and with general relief among the public.

The government declared that "reality and reason" had prevailed, the African National Congress said that "a torch of hope" had been lit, and the Inkatha Freedom Party described the agreement as "a blessing".

A two-day multiparty planning conference in Johannesburg at the weekend was held to mark the way to a forum in which negotiations towards a non-racial democratic constitution could be held. A unanimous resolution condemned violence and another put all the difficult questions off for a later meeting, establishing a "facilitating committee" to try to find answers.

This second resolution was not unanimous. The far-right Conservative Party did not accept it, standing in isolation, but did not walk out of the talks, and agreed to take part in the facilitating committee.

Every picayune political group wanted to have its place in the spotlight. The meeting ended up with 26 chairmen, taking the rostrum in groups of four.

As the meeting broke up, the facilitating committee began drawing up an agenda for the opening of the new multiparty forum. The forum's first meeting, before April 5, will decide how the chairman is to be appointed and how decisions are to be made. "Sufficient consensus" was the decision-making procedure at the Johannesburg meeting.

The Convention for a Democratic South Africa, the last multiparty forum, which broke down last May, is regarded by the ANC and the government as simply to be revived, and its decisions regarded as binding. Other groups, such as Inkatha, believe Codesa to be firmly dead, and its decisions to be renegotiated.

Unita sets terms for dialogue

Lisbon: Angola's Unita rebels, after claiming victory in a two-month battle for the key city of Huambo, have set conditions for the resumption of talks to end the civil strife, calling for an open dialogue in Geneva "not limited to the *Addis* Ababa agenda".

Angolan government military sources denied the rebels' claim about recapturing their former stronghold. "Fighting is continuing," one source said, denying Unita's claim to have taken the palace of the provincial governor. *(Reuter)*

Tokyo arrest

Tokyo: Shin Kanemaru, the former power broker who became a focus of Japanese public anger over political scandals, has been arrested on charges of evading tax on 800 million yen (£4.7 million) of income. *(AP)*

Leader poll

Ottawa: The Canadian Conservative party will elect a leader on June 13 to succeed Brian Mulroney, the prime minister, who is retiring. Kim Campbell, the defence minister, is front-runner. *(Reuter)*

Flights revealed

Washington: The U2 flight by Gary Powers, shot down in 1960, was only one of thousands over the Soviet Union in the 1950s and 1960s, reports here said. More than 150 US airmen were lost. *(AFP)*

Danish vote

Copenhagen: A poll indicated a slightly reduced majority of Danes intending to vote "yes" to the EC's Maastricht treaty in their second referendum on the pact, on May 18. *(Reuter)*

New leadership

Peking: A new Chinese Communist party leadership team has been settled, the Xinhua news agency reported. It did not report the leadership changes made after the central committee plenum. *(AFP)*

Swept away

Sydney: About 400,000 volunteers collected an estimated 20,000 tonnes of rubbish from Australia's roadsides and beaches on the country's annual clean-up day. *(Reuter)*

High-altitude cleaners tackle Everest

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KATHMANDU

THE world's highest rubbish tip is to be cleaned up — a tin, a bottle and an oxygen cylinder at a time. At 26,000ft near the summit of Everest, it will be one of the most ponderous and bizarre environmental jobs ever tackled, and hardly anybody will ever see the difference.

Since Sir Edmund Hilary and Tenzing Norgay reached the summit in May 1953, nearly 150 expeditions have bivouacked at South Col, the last camp before the final ascent. On the way down, triumphant, tired and anxious to lighten their loads, they have all left rubbish.

The Nepal Mountaineering Association says there are 17 tons of rubbish at South Col, with 23 bodies, some of which have been there for years. Cold and lack of oxygen mean that nothing perishes or rusts.

Various devices are being worked on to clear the rubbish, including a system of winches to lower it far enough down the mountain for yaks to haul it away. Lightweight carbon fibre sleds are being built in France to see if they can be shoved and pulled down the mountain, laden with the junk.

Everest is a crowded mountain. One day last year 32 climbers reached the summit on the same day after queueing for up to an hour each, placing them in grave risk of frost-bite. The Nepalese government, hungry for hard currency, gave climbing permits to an unprecedented 12 expeditions. The Everest base camp was packed with 268 climbers and back-up staff.



This year it will be worse: the government has permitted 19 expeditions, promising more chaos above the clouds and more rubbish.

The most common item of rubbish on Everest is the bright yellow oxygen cylinder. As many as 1,500 have been dumped, with tents, sleeping bags, ropes, medicines, food, binoculars, clothes, tincans and cameras.

The Nepal Mountaineering Association, alarmed by pollution of the peaks, is trying to persuade everybody to bring down what they take up, and to start clearing what is already up there. "The problem," says Tek Chandra Pokharel, former president of the association, "is that the government is pushing up the price of climbing permits so high that nobody is in much of a mood to co-operate voluntarily."

A French-Nepalese team will begin the £520,000 attempt to clean the mountain in May. The improbable rubbish collectors will have only 15 to 18 days to work, when South Col is free of snow.

It will be a Herculean task, because the body loses 80 per cent of its efficiency at that height. The French-Nepalese team will send up 40 sherpas to collect rubbish with the aim of lowering it to a base camp at 17,550ft. From there it will be hauled by yaks to the nearest airfield, at Luckla, and on to Kathmandu for dumping.

The government has tightened rules, but rubbish still piles up because policing is inadequate if not impossible. From this autumn only four expeditions a year will be allowed on Everest and only one team will be able use the same climbing route at the same time.

That explains the rise in fees. The cut in the number of climbers should give the high-altitude rubbish collectors a chance slowly to clear the rubbish, without a constant procession of climbers adding to the existing heap.

Afghan peace deal leaves defence rift

FROM REUTER IN ISLAMABAD

RIVAL leaders in Afghanistan signed a peace accord yesterday to end the months of fighting in Kabul that has claimed the lives of thousands of civilians. But they postponed a decision on their most divisive issue, the question of who will be defence minister.

"We pray that, as a result of this agreement, there will now be peace, harmony and unity," said Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani prime minister, who brought the leaders together in Islamabad. Eight main rival leaders, allies in Afghanistan's 14-year insurgency, signed the latest in a string of peace accords at the prime minister's residence after six days of intense negotiation.

President Rabbani, 53, the Jamiat-i-Islami leader, is to remain as head of state for the next 18 months while Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, his bitter enemy and head of the hardline Hezb-i-Islami, takes over as prime minister. "This accord is what was possible," said Mr Hekmatyar, 44, hinting at the deep divisions that held up the signing until the last minute.

Thousands of people have been killed and injured in battles for power in Kabul, the capital, as rival groups fought for control in the wake of the overthrow of the former communist government last April. One leader even wrote under his signature on the accord: "With reservations about the time for the president."

The signing was delayed for several hours by what Pakistani officials called a last-minute hitch as Mr Rabbani and Mr Hekmatyar wrangled over the powerful defence ministry post. In terms of the accord, the cabinet is to be decided within two weeks in consultations between the two party leaders.

All parties to the accord will be represented on a defence council, skirting the issue of the defence minister. The post is presently held by Ahmad Shah Masood, Mr Rabbani's most powerful commander.

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British Fashion Week adds layers of meaning to the debate over the future of the industry in this country

Something to show for themselves



NICOLE FARHI: LOTS OF CRISP WHITE SHIRTS



EDINA RONAY: REBORN BIBA GIRLS WEARING VELVET MAXI COATS AND LITTLE CROCHETED HATS PHOTOGRAPHS BY DENZIL McNEELANCE



JOHN ROCHA: THE WHOLE GAMUT OF GREYS



HELEN STOREY: SLEEVELESS BIKERS' JACKETS



JOHN ROCHA: A NATURAL WAY TO SHINE



Fashion

IAIN R. WEBB

OVER the past few weeks the future of British fashion has been under debate. It has been scrutinised, pulled apart at the seams, and shamefully mocked. For British Fashion Week (actually four days), the designers were on the spot, in several cases under the spotlight. This was their chance to show just what they were made of, and (hurrah) they did just that.

The venue for this season's main exhibition was the Ritz hotel. It was a classy choice, and, in the world's eyes, exceptionally British. Amid the swirling gold and potted palms, press and buyers sipped tea between shows, while on the floors above, 60 designers had taken up residence, moving in dress rails and models, on which they draped their designs for autumn/winter 1993. Around the capital another 50 were opening their showrooms to preview their collections.

As champagne corks popped in the Palm Court bar, the mood was equally bubbly. Buyers were placing orders, the press were applauding and international camera crews were chasing each others' tails around the London streets, focusing on what makes the British fashion capital swing: talent.

Regardless of economics, our designers have an abundance of ideas. Behind the locked doors of the international fashion houses you will find any number of British designers, sketching at drawing boards, pinning fabric on showroom dummies. The rest of the world knows how much ideas are worth: they are the ones making money from them. Instead of berating the designers who have moved to Paris or Milan to show their collections (Rifat Ozbek, Vivienne Westwood, Katharine Hamnett, John Galliano and, this season, John Richmond), we should feel proud that they are so easily accepted as *international* names. Their shining successes have proved that British fashion is still a force to be reckoned with. The collections shown at British Fashion Week only reinforce this.

British fashion is unashamedly diverse. The unpredictable mixes happily with the enduring. Some of the clothes will walk easily off the catwalks onto the hangers in the stores, others will find themselves watered down by high street chain stores. One way or another they will all be worn.

The main theme which emerged during the shows was that of a layered look, clothes which can be put together but still stand as singular items, worn by themselves. Whether in diaphanous chiffon and lacy crochet, or chunky knits with warm wool and corduroy, every designer approached this idea with an unmistakable handwriting.

Nicole Farhi showed knits of every description. Long sleek maxi coats, belted blazer-style jackets, little waistcoats, leggings and skirts were all mixed with crisp white shirts, and pristine-looking jeans (in black or white). *Big Fair Isle*, Aran, Aztec and angora sweaters gave a cosy touch to black and brown leather. Colours were muted, and natural — stone, beige, clay, ecru and grey.

Helen Storey's style is poles apart, yet she too chose cover her models in layers. Shiny black PVC trousers were worn under black see-through sarong skirts and full-length coats, on top of which she pulled tiny Argyll tank tops in moss, black and cream. The same vests in soft moss green were shown over stripy T-shirts, as were sleeveless grey biker jackets. Storey's collection was a patchwork of ideas, as were many of the actual garments. Satin and lace, colourful knitted squares and glittering Lurex were pieced together with an unmistakably "hippy" influence.

> The new designers embody a sophistication which is both classic and clever

Other shows plundered the past. Edina Ronay's collection made much of the 1970s vamp. Swirling velvet maxi coats were dramatically luxurious. Long ribbed knit dresses, sometimes worn under equally long waistcoats, ruffled jackets, wide trousers and Biba-look dresses all hit the mark. Ally Capellino's show began with a grey tableau of Dickensian proportions. Overcoats, jackets and knits for men and women and children strolled the runways as the soundtrack played Fagin's theme song, *Reviewing the Situation*. Capellino added ethnic stripes and dockside utility denims.

At Ghost, models looked like little fairy-tale princesses or 1930s Berlin cabaret singers, dressed in tier upon tier of flowing bias-cut dresses coloured rose pink, moss green, chocolate and black, or ethereal mint green, cream and white. A section of pretty underwear pinks was followed by sensuous silky boudoir dressing gowns and pyjamas in wine and black.

The clothes designed by Bella Freud appear to have been inspired by old photographs of two particular little princesses, Margaret and Elizabeth Windsor. Cleverly cut tweed coats, checker board knit suits and dresses were charmingly regal, while ice pink velvet blazers and knitted wrap skirts were simply modern.

It was a pleasure to see John Rocha showing again on the catwalk. His collection ran the gamut of dark grey layers to creamy pale hues. Shirts poked from underneath ribbed sweaters. Gold and silver leather shone next to soft natural knits.

Jean Muir showed beautifully cut leather jackets and long fluid jersey skirts, but clever Miss Muir left the best until last — a handful of exquisite little black jersey dresses. Every shape, every option. Every one a winner.

Away from the catwalk, back at the Ritz, six new names were showing that the future of British fashion is assured. With young designers you tend to expect the wild and unwearable, but the new breed embodies a sophistication of design which is both classic and clever at the same time. Not with tricks, but with tricky cutting. Not with showiness, but with telling detail.

Abe Hamilton, Pam Blundell (of Copperwheat Blundell), Paul Frith, Lisa Johnson, Sonnetag Mulligan and Alexander McQueen share a liking for clean silhouettes, sumptuous fabrics and sparingly simple lines. Their designs are unequivocably of today; their names should be world famous tomorrow.

Painterly touch

CAROLE WALLER is a painter with a difference: her canvases become clothes. After three years of sailing in the Mediterranean her colourful visions began to take shape in the form of an illustrated wardrobe. Using silk screen and a palette of muted colours shot with bursts of brilliant light, she has designed a collection under the name of No Walking Canvas. Scarves, dresses, jackets and shirts, mostly in silk, have been given the painterly but washable touch. Each piece in her small collection is a one-off, signed by the artist. Stockists include Harvey Nichols, Liberty, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Royal Academy of Art.

She has also been commissioned by the Royal Academy of Art to create a scarf to celebrate its exhibition of the French artist, Georges Rouault, which opens on Thursday.

Bare necessities

SOCK SHOP has launched Cosmetics for Legs, a new range of tights meant to act as a foundation for the legs, giving a healthy appearance throughout the year. So sheer they are almost invisible to the eye, the tights are made of a Japanese yarn, which is both cool and exceptionally strong. They come in shades called factors, ranging from 1 for fair skin to 5 for darker or coloured skin. For those wishing to bare less than perfect legs this summer these tights will come as a revelation, giving perfect cover and a natural "bare-legged" effect. There will be a free pair of tights for the first 100 readers to write, stating preferred factor, to: *The Times*/Cosmetics for Legs Offer, Sock Shop, 20 Nelson Way, Yorktown, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3DW.

Natural Pink from Clarins is a perfect match for the "nude look" make-up so fashionable this spring; neither too pink nor too beige. Keep it light with just one layer. Natural pink nail colour, £8.00, from large department stores.

Damage at the workplace

A new case has punched a hole in America's harassment laws. Julia Watson reports

Another milestone on the long haul for women's rights in America has just been reached. But what looks on the surface like progress may well turn out to the contrary. Last Monday the United States Supreme Court agreed, by accepting to hear the appeal of Teresa Harris vs Forklift Systems, to look afresh at what defines sexual harassment in the workplace.

Teresa Harris left her job at a forklift sales company in Nashville after two years of sexually derogatory remarks from the company's president. He was apparently fond of asking his female employees to pull coins from his front trouser pocket, and asked Ms Harris if she would like to negotiate her pay rise at the local Holiday Inn.

Ms Harris originally sued her employer for loss of wages when she felt forced to quit her job. Her case against him was dismissed because the judge said Ms Harris had failed to demonstrate that her boss's conduct, while "vulgar, crude, arrogant and insensitive", had caused her serious psychological injury.

In using that phrase, the judge opened a door that many American women had thought was safely closed. The official definition of sexual harassment at work, according to a 1986 Supreme Court ruling, is that both a demand for sexual favours in exchange for promotion or job security, and behaviour that creates "a hostile or abusive work environment", contravene Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. But official definitions do not always match conditions in the workplace.

Kim Gandy, of NOW, the National Organisation of Women, was first exposed to sexual harassment at her first job, at a telephone company. "It was a real eye-opener. There was a scandal involving a manager who harassed dozens of women in the elevator. Gee, I thought, he was always nice to me! I was practically the only woman he didn't harass! I didn't know if I should be offended or not."

When she was working as a lawyer, judges would complement her in court on her outfit. "It immediately reduced my status in the jury's and the client's eyes," she says.

Sandy Cesarini, a former Florida police officer, remembers consistent harassment "because I was in a job with few other women and a lot of men who valued the power-charge of male aggression". Her supervisor sent her on a course in another state and told her they would meet down there.

When she arrived at her hotel, he telephoned her. "I could hear he was at the airport. He said he'd got reservations and I should come pick him up. I was so shocked. I told him I already had a boyfriend. He said, just wait till you get back. I got every bum detail known to man."

"Sexual harassment distinctly means that your ability to compete in the market-place is inhibited because of your sex," says Jackie Blumenthal, a Washington political fund-raiser. "Most commonly it is when your boss encourages you to trade sexual favours for advancement. But there's always that man you don't want to get stuck in the supply room with."

The American public was first forced to confront the existence of sexual harassment in the workplace with the Senate Committee hearings to confirm Clarence Thomas as Supreme Court Justice in 1991, when Anita Hill, a law professor, unsuccessfully accused him of repeated offensive behaviour. Then, in September 1991, came the shock of the Navy's "Tailhook" scandal when a female Admiral's aide described a rowdy convention of navy flyers grabbing women and stripping off their clothes as they ran down the hotel corridor.

Some weeks later, a group of women disclosed to *The Washington Post* that the highly-regarded Senator for Oregon, Bob Packwood, a public supporter of women's rights, had regularly made unwanted sexual advances to them. "And if around 20 women have come forward about being approached, how many did he succeed with?" wonders Ms Blumenthal. "They won't talk because of the 20 who resisted."

Government offices now seem obvious places for sexual harassment to flourish. "Women work in government for highly competitive reasons. The men know this and can use it," Ms Blumenthal says. "These are high profile personalities, arrogant men with power."

A woman senior senate staffer (who prefers not to be named) says: "You are not in a situation where you have anyone to complain to. There is no place to go in the Senate. Your only option is to leave."

Had she been the victim of harassment? "I have often been in situations where comments have been made, but I have always been able to laugh it off or ignore it. Some women think if a man opens a door and smiles at them they're being sexually harassed. I have never felt threatened or in danger of losing my job."



Psychological harm? Bridget Fonda is molested by her employer in the film Single White Female

Following the Packwood affair, an Office of Fair Employment Practices has been set up to review sexual harassment complaints but it is too early to say whether this will deter offensive behaviour.

Another woman, who works as a check-out clerk for one of the East Coast's largest supermarket chains, says sexual harassment is "rampant" in her job. "Innuendo I don't pay much attention to. But there is often an outright suggestion that if you don't do what you're asked to do you can forget about support from your supervisor.

"We do have a complaints office set up. But this is a very nepotistic company and you have to be very sure who you are complaining about or who you are complaining to. The final solution is to sue and for that you have to leave. And I can't afford to do that."

"If a woman wants to sue," says Sharon Griffiths, of the National Women's Party, "she's probably out of a job for a year, she faces high lawyers' fees, and will probably gain a bad suing reputation."

The potential threat to women's rights lies in the phrase "psychological injury", which is why Teresa Harris's case is seen as so important. "There is no mention in the 1986 ruling of the necessity of psychological damage having to be established," says Helen Norton, of the Women's Defense Fund. "If the Supreme Court upholds the judge's ruling, it is not going to help victims. They should not have to wait to establish psychological damage before they come forward."

Already two federal legal circuits, which generally abide by Supreme Court decisions, have agreed that "serious psychological injury" must be proved in order to win a case of harassment, according to the Civil Rights Act.

"It is a deliberate step back on the part of those circuits," says Kim Gandy. "They are run by predominately male appellate panels. I simply hope the Supreme Court will use the Harris case to say 'we told in you '86 what the position is — how dare you take steps to change this.'"

But even if the Supreme Court does that, some would consider the ruling too narrow. "It could miss the whole point", says Ms Norton. "If workers are made so unhappy that they are forced to quit their job, or if they are unable to quit their job because of financial necessity, what are we looking at is sexual harassment as an economic issue, not just a psychological one."

If the Supreme Court agrees that Teresa Harris has to prove psychological damage, the ruling "will prove a major setback", she says. Sharon Fishman, of the National Women's Law Center, which is filing a brief on Ms Harris's behalf, says: "Once a standard is set in the Supreme Court, there's not a lot we can do."

Lightening their darkness



LIBBY PURVES

You hear some interesting conversations on the school run. One of my favourites was when three children — the youngest six, the eldest nine — were conducting a review of the assembly styles of different teachers. It was for all the world like ferrying round a cadre of bad-tempered little theatre critics. "Mrs X," said the smallest, "is not bad. She tells about knights. But Mr Z is the worst". "Yes" agreed the next smallest. "He goes on and on and on about" — pause for contemptuous effect — "Jesus!" "Yup" replied her friend. "He's *obsessed* with Jesus."

At this point the eldest intervened. "You wait till you get to my school," he said darkly. "They do heaps of Jesus ones there, and sometimes in an actual church." "Eugh, gross!" said the other two. Unwisely, I put my oar in to point out that it is the law since 1988 that assemblies should be "broadly Christian", and that in my view there was much to be said for Jesus. "But Mr Y is so boring," said the original complainant. "And he gets really cross if you yawn, and I can't help it".

This was a couple of years back, but it came to mind when Mr John Patten, the education secretary, demanded a new syllabus of religious education to ensure that the nation's youth are "taught about the difference between right and wrong". He had approached Dr Carey, Cardinal Hume and the Chief Rabbi for advice; after a count of three came the inevitable objection from Muslim, Sikh and Hindu leaders. Me, I switched to Classic FM before the critics' forum in the back of the car could get going.

I am not sure that Mr Patten has got the right end of the stick. An understanding of religions clearly belongs in the curriculum: it is central to world history and culture, philosophy and psychology. But to say that religious instruction makes children moral is as stupid as thinking that television football gets them fit.

Anyway, the citizen's quest for personal holiness is none of the cabinet's business. Their brief is social, and the "difference between right and wrong" does not actually take long to teach. There are only ten commandments, and society is only in a moral panic about three or four of them anyway. Government itself has proved remarkably elastic on bearing false witness (or being economical with the *actualité*), adultery, and keeping holy the Sabbath day.

> The quest for personal holiness is none of the cabinet's business

As for coveting our neighbours' oxen, the entire economic philosophy of the last 15 years is based on little else. If anything is wrong with a section of the nation's youth it is not that nobody has told them the difference between right and wrong. It is that nobody has convinced them that it matters.

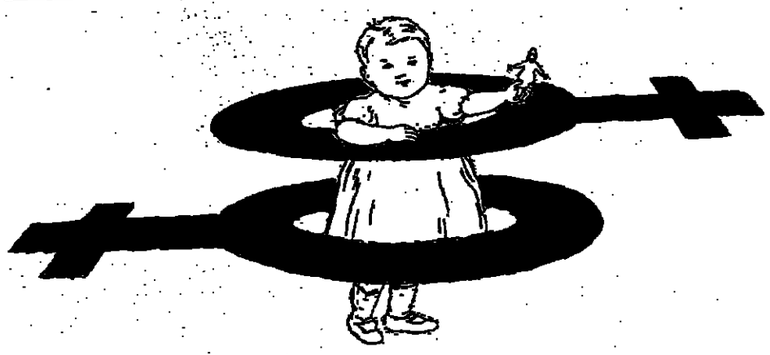
That is something you only get from example. I had a full-dress, heavy-duty religious education myself at the hands of various nuns, and know that it was not an ability to sing the "Dies Irae" which civilized me but the kindness, innocence and humility of my mentors. The best of them visibly respected and nurtured every individual as the possessor of a soul, and expected us to live up to it. On the night Kennedy was shot they had us praying not only for the family and the world, but for Lee Harvey Oswald; and they meant it. If they had been nasty, stupid nuns it would have been different. I had some of them too, during a year in South Africa: racist nuns, who talked of "kaffirs" with contempt and hit us with rulers. We got the RI all right, Mr Patten, but it did not much good.

Teachers need not be preachers, or have any explicit religious belief themselves. If they have respect for children and for one another, listen lovingly, apologize when they have been unfair and create a culture where bullying and abuse are unthinkable (in the staffroom and with parents, as well as in the playground) then the difference between right and wrong becomes perfectly clear.

And you could argue that the effort to do this in schools has been hindered more than helped by years of acrimonious squabbling between government and teachers (don't think the children haven't noticed) and by the documented rise in primary school class sizes. If you are seven years old, in a class of 35 with a tired, tense, paranoid teacher who is being bullied herself, it will take more than a set of compulsory religious attainment-targets to bring you the beginnings of wisdom.

'Would I be able to give up the child I had carried for nine months to another couple?'

When close friends are having infertility problems, surrogate motherhood begins to seem possible



IN THE past when I've told people I want to have three children and one for a friend they don't know what to say next, so I've stopped saying it. But I never stop thinking about it.

It's not an idea most people really address: being a surrogate mother. I probably never would have thought about it were it not for the fact that so many of my friends are having infertility problems.

I have a good friend, Susan, 34, who, after three years of sheer hell undergoing infertility treatments, has finally concluded that the only way she and her husband are ever going to have children is by adoption. And another close friend, who married before me, is now on her third round of *in vitro*, where sperm and egg are mixed outside the body, grown and reimplanted.

I, on the other hand, am six months pregnant with my second child, having had the first in July 1991. I conceived immediately in both cases and am now hoping for as easy a delivery with this one as I had before. I genuinely enjoy being pregnant and haven't suffered from morning sickness.

The inequality of it all infuriates me. Both my friends would make wonderful mothers. They are creative and intelligent and they have good relationships with their partners. They started trying to conceive in their early thirties, which in these days is considered relatively young.

Over the years, I have listened and learnt about female infertility: the self-administered injections that make you feel as if you're on an emotional roller-coaster; the waiting; the hoping; the feelings of failure that overwhelm you when you realise that you can't automatically "grow up, get married and have kids". I have heard how invasive and painful the treatments can be, how much they cost and of the strength required by both husband and wife to deal with so many strains and uncertainties.

The upside to being a third party to all this is that I never take for granted the miracle of pregnancy and motherhood. But I feel more than just thankfulness. I feel that it just isn't fair and that I want to do something about it.

I first started thinking about the idea of surrogacy a few months ago. For several weeks I could think of nothing else. How do people go about such things? Would my husband go for the idea? Would I be able to give up a child that I have carried for nine months to another couple? What would I tell people?

On the other hand, what a gift it would be to give someone a child; to give them the kind of joy and hope that my husband and I have received through raising our daughter. And it is something I can do.

I REALISE that the idea is fraught with problems; there are difficulties that I probably can't even begin to imagine. But I have no aversion to the basic idea. On the contrary.

I imagine Susan and her husband, Chris, coming along to the doctor's to hear the first heartbeat. I envision us talking over the many decisions concerning pre-natal care and labour. I can see them in the delivery room with me, and imagine handing them their child, watching as they experience that unforgettable timelessness following birth.

As I have talked over the idea of surrogacy with close friends and family, almost everyone with whom I spoke thought it was a bad idea. "You don't know what you're in for," my mother said. "I can't imagine doing that," said others.

The only person who understood was someone who has seen both sides of the fence: a childhood friend who, after eight years of trying and doses of fertility drugs, finally had twin boys who are now my godsons.

My husband and I talked about it too, obviously. He is the one who would have to put up with my tempers and fatigue during pregnancy; who would have to calm me as I go into labour and worry for my health. He too would have to explain to his friends and family and believe in what we are doing. It is a lot to ask of someone, I know.

There are certain conditions, big conditions, I would have to map out before ever embarking on such an adventure. I could not, for instance, give up a child if I knew it were my husband's. Instead, I would have to be artificially inseminated, either with Susan's husband's sperm or a donor's.

WHETHER or not I could actually go through with it would also greatly depend on how smoothly my other pregnancies go. So much can go wrong. I would have to know that whatever happens — if the baby were born deformed or handicapped — it would still be Chris and Susan's responsibility to care for the child, not ours.

I put all these thoughts in a letter to Susan and her husband: it was a very hard letter to write. I felt as if I was dangling something in front of them without being able to be very concrete about it. I thought perhaps it was too much of a non-offer to make, with too many uncertainties and too much emotion attached. Still, it felt like the right thing to do.

Susan said she and Chris both cried when they read it. They were thrilled, they said, that I would even consider the idea. The problem for them, though, is time. They have been trying to become parents for three years. The adoption process, like the infertility process, is a long one, filled with endless promises and constant disappointments.

Hopefully, by the time I am ready to consider seriously becoming the mother to their child, Chris and Susan will already be parents. But if it is possible to give in this way, without hurting my own family, I will.

RENE RILEY-ADAMS

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Matthew Parris



■ Past events, even well-remembered ones, are mysteriously elusive when we come to check the records

The other week, unemployment passed three million. I knew the event would dominate prime minister's questions. It had done so back in the early 1980s, when the three million mark was first reached. I thought it would be interesting to compare then with now, so, fetching a library ladder, I began hunting through the archives for the *Hansard* report of the appropriate time in Mrs Thatcher's premiership. *It would be easy to dig up the exchanges.* I was an MP at the time. I remembered it well ...

Or so I imagined. Two hours later, I was still searching. Colleagues agreed it had happened and that there had been a great song and dance, but nobody could remember *when*. Graphs proved useless because there are so many "unemployment" numbers — adjusted, unadjusted, long-term, underlying — and because the basis of *calculation has been* changed so often.

Eventually I had to give up. I did find references to the three million point *already passed*: but the moment itself, if it ever did exist as a Commons occasion, I could not recover.

Perhaps it exists and more effort would have found it. But how often we are convinced we remember something quite distinct: a triumph, a disaster, a fuss, a time when, *at* the time, the significance was clear — and yet when we search the record we can *find no* headline, no reference by anyone to what we seem to remember as the big story of the day. It was the dominant theme, as we remember it: but no headline records its dominance. No signpost is entered in the archives. Is that just a fault in our methods of retrieval? Or is there another explanation? To this I shall return.

> 'It was the dominant theme, we remember: but no *headline* records its dominance'

But first, a curious occurrence. Having just sold my London flat, I've been spending my mornings with my old Land Rover moving all my belongings to a friend's garage. I only used the flat to sleep in, and then only a few nights of each parliamentary week, so drawers full of rubbish from my student days have sat undisturbed for years. On Friday I went through one such drawer, in a wardrobe-trunk I bought at Yale and transported by sea back to Britain. I doubt it had seen the light of day since I was a postgraduate student in America. I began to rummage.

There was a stapler and an essay on Wilhelm Reich, a clockwork dinosaur which waddles across flat surfaces, still working, a red Anglepoise lamp and a Bette Midler single. There was a *ridiculous* photograph of myself with a bandit-style moustache. There was also a smell: a near-empty bottle of "Pimiento" aftershave whose perfume I recognised instantly. I would have sworn I never used aftershave.

All at once a recollection so strong that it shook me by the shoulders gripped me. It was a memory not of any one event or person or feature or story of that time, but *of the whole time*. The news of the day, the sentiments on people's lips, the music in the air, the fashions, the conventional wisdoms of the hour; the way we looked, the things we thought were obvious ... and also the way I felt. It lasted only a few seconds, then disappeared as mysteriously as it came.

But it left me with this thought: that the reason we so often fail to recognise, in the records we keep, events as we remember them, is as simple as it is without remedy. It is because "events" have no meaning unless surrounded by the air *they breathed at the time*.

In newspaper archives we succeed in digging up references to stories already known by the readers of the day — yet so often we fail to discover the story itself. That is because it was never actually written down. It has been built up, often piece by piece, in the readers' minds, and exists only there. A million little things which make up an era, things everyone knows, things most unlikely to be written down, provide the stage set, the lighting, the sound effects *and the background noise*. Together, they make up the moment, which is a composite moment. Together, they determine what stood out, what we made of things, what seemed important. Like the light and shade of an Impressionist oil painting, the picture was composed of thousands of tiny brushstrokes and these can never be reassembled. If half the brushstrokes are missing it is not the case that at least half the picture will be clear: nothing, in fact, will be discernible. All we are left with is the captions. These now look strangely meaningless.

Archives, be they ever so extensive, will almost by definition exclude what was peripheral. Yet periphery *provides the frame*. Records, however complete, will omit what went without saying; yet what is shared, obvious, unspoken, is what gives life and meaning to the news. Without context the news is drained of its defining colours as fast as pressed carnations lose their red, and their perfume.

Sometimes, parting from someone we have loved, we know this is the last time we shall see them and we say farewell. But we say goodbye to the present without ceremony, thinking we will recall it whenever we wish. We never shall.

In distancing itself from Princess Diana, the royal family must look to its public standing

A PR lesson from King James

Thomas Hearne, the early 18th century Oxford antiquary, records in his notes a story of King James I, one of the great survivors of British history. "In the schools [at Oxford] on the tower is [a picture of] mater Academi [the University] giving a booke to K. Jeames, sitting in his chaire of state, and giving of it to winged fame, who trumpets it throughout the world. Over K. Jeames his head his Motto Beati Pacifici [blessed are the peacemakers] and over that Justice, Peace and Plentie. All which were very gloriously gilt, but when K. Jeames saw [it], he said 'by my sol, this is too glorious for Jeamy' and soe caused it to be whited out, which remaineth soe to this day."

Apart from William III, James I was probably the last king of England who might have proved a sufficiently professional politician to have reached Downing Street — if he had not been royal — under the competitive conditions of the 20th century. One cannot imagine Charles II wanting to be prime minister, let alone what he might have said on a mobile phone to Nell Gwynn.

Hearne's anecdote goes to the heart of royal public relations. Like the Tudor masters of public relations, Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, James I was concerned to control the image. That is still a preoccupation of public relations techniques — the success of Ronald Reagan in controlling his image contrasts with the failure of George Bush. In the 16th and 17th centuries the images were created by painters, including artists of the genius of Holbein, Rubens and Van Dyck. In the 20th century they are created by television. But the political significance is the same.

In the reign of James's immediate predecessor, Queen Elizabeth I, the purpose of image-making was to elevate the idea of royal glory. That was also the aim of the three other great masters of royal public relations, Edward III, the model of medieval kingship, of Henry VIII, who stamped his image so strongly in public memory that he is still our best-known king, and of Victoria, whose concept of monarchy has lasted nearly a century after her death. James I's decision to have the Oxford portrait whitewashed shows that he also sometimes wanted to control his image in a negative way. He did not want a triumphalism which made him nervous, which seemed to him to be dangerously exaggerated. There was wisdom in that, and there still is.

It was Victoria who first created the modern relationship between the monarch and the masses. Elizabeth Longford describes in *Victoria R.I.* the Queen's jealousy of Gladstone, and the way in which she learnt about mass communications from him. "The 'People's William' competed with the 'People's Victoria' ... Their first deliberate approaches to the masses had occurred at the same time — in the early sixties. As a newcomer to the Liberal party, Gladstone turned for invigoration to the people; the Queen, in her desolate widowhood, found comfort in the same direction. Thus two rival giants were both trying to draw strength from the same earth."

Queen Victoria, as she grew older, drew strength from the public success of her reign, from the growth of Empire, and from the atmosphere created by her own large family. Queen Elizabeth II has had to maintain the support of the monarchy by the people while her prime ministers were liquidating the Empire and distancing even the Commonwealth. Like James I, her public relations have been more cautious — she has not seen herself as Gloriana.

The aim of royal public relations has not changed since Queen Victoria died. It is part of the function of monarchy to be popular, to be loved by the people. It is the normal condition of modern monarchy to be criticised by the intellectuals, and by the professional middle class generally; it is the mass audience which enjoys relating directly to the monarchy. A king or queen who *is* loved by the people does not have to worry too much about the postgraduate vote.

William Rees-Mogg

Queen Victoria herself asked the question, "What has she done to be so loved and liked?" Lady Longford's answer is that "she was loved for her simplicity, her domesticity, her interest in the lowliest of her retainers and her confiding nature ... There was also the humility which led her to ask the question at all". If one looks at the present royal family, one sees members of it who are attractive to the public for these reasons, particularly Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

The difficulty, however, is obvious. The royal family is in the process of separating itself from the Princess of Wales. She, too, has been extremely good at relating to the mass audience, and still is. In this essential part of the royal function she has been the star performer. The public at large is adult and understands how personal difficulties and pain can destroy a marriage, but loves Princess Diana in the same way as it loves the Queen Mother, and for much the same reasons, just as the Victorian public loved Queen Victoria. The separation may be unavoidable, a reason for feeling sympathy for both sides, but it needs handling with the utmost care, and with visible affection for the princess. Anything which suggested the royal family were closing ranks against the Princess of Wales would be damaging to the royal family itself. It would make it look ugly.

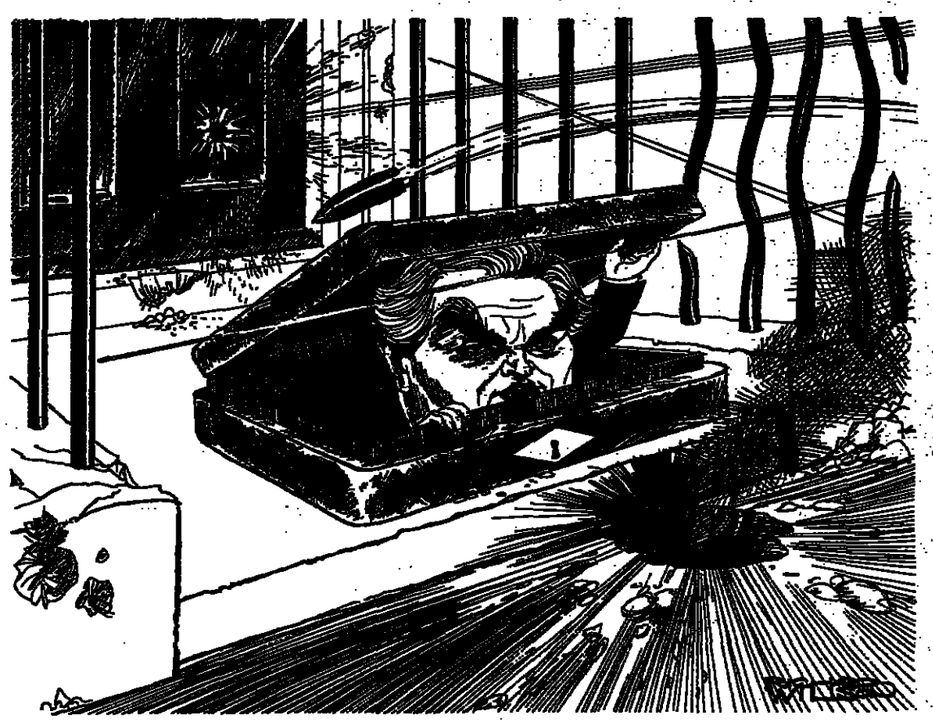
The first stage of any new policy must therefore be to heal the public breach, though the private one cannot be healed. Many families continue to have warm relations with a separated or divorced son or daughter-in-law. The public regards Princess Diana as refreshingly open, warm-hearted and compassionate. Perhaps the royal family has not found her so easy or so sympathetic, but that is not really important. The British have no wish to be forced into judgments on a woman they admire.

The Queen must reconsider the presentation of the monarchy. The question to be asked is what the public wants: the problem is that the public likes contradictory things. The public enjoys state pomp, military bands, uniforms, ceremonial, horses and tiaras. At the same time the public likes simplicity of the heart, openness, warmth of personality and — that rarest of state virtues — *humility*. Some of the press has supposed that royal cost-cutting and paying of taxes are the way to regain public favour. Probably the royal yacht is now an expensive anachronism, but the popularity of royalty does not turn on the Buckingham Palace equivalent of the profit and loss account. Our emotions and not our pocket calculators must be reached.

Perhaps the answer should come not from James I — though "too glorious for Jeamy" is worth noting — but from a more ancient monarch, Edward III. He was the Ronald Reagan of the Middle Ages, the great communicator. He imprinted his battles of Crécy and Poitiers permanently on the public mind. He created the solemn image of the paternal king. He saw Britain through the Black Death. He founded the Knights of the Garter. For that order's name he took advantage of a mildly scandalous incident of the loss of a lady's garter, and gave the knights the motto *Honi Soit Qui Mal y Pense* — shame to him who thinks evil here. Not bad advice for the future of royal relations with the Princess of Wales. She is, and is likely to remain, the "People's Diana".

Could Lamont win through?

The Chancellor may yet hang on at No 11, writes Peter Riddell



The funeral has been arranged for this summer. The heirs are already squabbling over who will inherit the great house. The snag is that the *occupant shows no signs of expiring*. Norman Lamont wants to stay at the Treasury.

His predicament is virtually unprecedented. Rarely has a Chancellor been so pilloried. Mr Lamont has become a political non-person, deserted by most of the Tory press and hardly mentioned at the Tories' Central Council in Harrogate. His case looks hopeless, but it is not necessarily so, *yet*.

Prime ministers often find it hard to know when to change their Chancellors. Any prime minister knows that his Chancellor's policies have to be successful if his government is to prosper. An unsuccessful Chancellor can be a serious liability, while a strong one can be a potential rival. Alistair Horne's biography of Harold Macmillan shows how his Chancellors caused him constant anxiety. Peter Thorneycroft resigned over public spending in January 1958, a key event in the formative theology of Thatcherism. The typically nervous Macmillan feared the collapse of his administration. However, Thorneycroft alienated other ministers, while Macmillan's memorable, and carefully prepared, remark about "a little local difficulty" defused the row.

Later, during 1960, Macmillan became impatient with Heathcoat Amory as Chancellor and wrote to the Queen that Amory "had lost his buoyancy and resilience and entered into a permanent quietism more suitable to a monastery than to the busy life of every day". Within less than two years Macmillan was also disillusioned with Selwyn Lloyd, who "somehow fails to 'put it across'. He has not the appearance of having 'fire in his belly'." He then clumsily sacked a bitter Selwyn Lloyd and a third of the cabinet in July 1962.

Harold Wilson was also wary of his Chancellors. After the November 1967 devaluation, James Callaghan believed he had failed personally and insisted upon leaving the Treasury. Lord Wilson picked Roy Jenkins, a potential rival, because, according to the shrewd Marcia Williams, the best hope for safety and stability was that the two should be bound together by mutual self-interest.

John Major faces a similar dilemma. Mr Lamont is accused of many of the same failings of presentation as earlier Chancellors. But it is not as simple as that. The blame for the recession lies in the dispute between Margaret Thatcher and Nigel Lawson, while Mr Major himself was largely responsible for taking Britain into the exchange-rate mechanism.

So in November 1990 Mr Lamont inherited both the recession and the main policy constraint. That left him with no room for manoeuvre. For his first two years as Chancellor, he was condemned to preside over a contracting economy.

Mr Lamont has in many ways been an innovative Chancellor. His two main budgets turned the tables on the Opposition — the first, in 1991, by lightening the burden of poll tax through the switch to Vat, and the second, in 1992, by introducing a 20p reduced-rate band. In face of doubts from the Tory hierarchy he also pressed the issue of tax cuts to the centre of last year's election campaign. Mr Lamont also helped secure the British opt-out in the Maastricht treaty on monetary union. As Chancellor, he has also introduced a number of long-advocated changes: a tighter structure of planning public spending, a unified budget combining taxes and spending, the new panel of outside forecasters, and greater openness over monetary policy.

Few of these proposals have affected his public standing when put alongside the recession and the ERM débâcle. Mr Lamont has been the inevitable punchbag and lightning conductor for both Mr Major and the government. However, he has often appeared prickly, and publicly defensive, while having to fend off unfair media instrusions into his private affairs, as over his credit card bill. He has also made silly remarks, such as "singing in the bath" in celebration of ERM withdrawal. His public successes, in the emergency Commons debate on the ERM last September and November's Autumn Statement, may have won more support, or at least sympathy, among Tory MPs than is generally recognised, but they have given him only a temporary respite.

The signs are that Mr Lamont is in a defiant mood, eager to prove his critics wrong and not to be a scapegoat. Last September he felt none of the sense of demoralisation which Lord Callaghan had after the 1967 devaluation. Mr Major agreed that he should stay to establish the new policy and see the economy through to recovery. But the Budget a week tomorrow will only be the first instalment of a shift in fiscal policy, to be rounded off in the first unified budget in late November.

Mr Major has, however, given Mr Lamont no assurance that he will be Chancellor beyond the summer. He has therefore to restore his credibility over the next two months. A vigorous counter-attack is likely after the Budget. This has always looked a delicate balancing act between the warnings of those worried about the fragility of the recovery and those urging tough action to reduce public-sector borrowing. Tax increases, some immediately with other larger ones later in the year, look inevitable. Mr Lamont's uncertain future has increased the pressures.

The odds at Westminster are that Mr Lamont will be shifted during the summer in a limited reshuffle. A common view is that his standing is now too damaged to be repaired. However, Mr Major does not want to make broader changes until a mid-term reshuffle next year after the Euro-elections. So he may prefer to retain Mr Lamont until then, rather than to make a politically tricky choice between, say, the strongly pro-EC Kenneth Clarke and the more sceptical Michael Howard.

Any decision will depend on how quickly the government escapes from the Maastricht maze and on the state of party morale after the Newbury by-election and the country elections in May. Mr Lamont still has a *chance* to survive until the November Budget, by when he should genuinely be able to claim that recovery is under way. But he has to capture the political imagination in next week's Budget. There will be no rewards for timidity.

Clark's coup

HE IS a publisher's dream. Alan Clark, Tory grandee and maverick former minister, has not only set the political world alight by his decision to throw his hat into the ring at Newbury, he has mightily pleased Weidenfeld & Nicolson. If the Newbury Tories go for the dangerous option and choose Clark for the by-election, it will propel his long awaited *Diaries*, being published in June, to the top of the political agenda.

"He was ghastly, an awful person to work with — indecisive, blustering, bullying, stupid and cunningly cautious even when he didn't need to be," is his verdict on Tom King, his former boss, whom he still regards as a friend. Much more is promised about colleagues, ministers and their wives, which makes the prospect of Clark standing in Newbury one John Major might rather avoid.

Not only are most memoirs restrained by comparison, they are written from the safety of life outside Parliament. If Clark is selected, and wins the seat, he will be sitting yards from his many victims.

Weidenfeld signed up Clark for £150,000 last autumn when he appeared to be yesterday's man. Since then he has been a central player in the Matrix Churchill drama, endorsed a biography which poured scorn on Churchill's wartime role, and has been outspokenly against Maastricht. The memoirs are to be serialised in *The Mail on Sunday* in May for a fee reportedly over £200,000. But the date will have to be revised if the Tories opt for a by-election that month.

Ion Trewin, publishing director of Weidenfeld, could not conceal his glee about the memoirs yesterday. "To say the least we are sitting on dynamite. They are frank, not written with hindsight, and written well." If they are that good, perhaps the Tories in Newbury will decide Clark is their best hope of keeping the seat.

● *Clark will have an early chance to show whether he has lost his political touch after a year out of the Commons. On Friday he travels to Durham Union Society, where he will speak in favour of a motion close to his heart. "This house believes that Margaret Thatcher saved Britain." Now which side would John Major be on?*

DIARY

Shirley's temple?

IT IS not only the Maastricht treaty that requires a three-line whip this week. Fellows of Selwyn College, Cambridge, have been ordered to attend a meeting tomorrow night to choose a master to replace Professor Sir Alan Cook, who steps down in July.

After months of deadlock one candidate's name has been put forward. The identity is a secret but there are rumours it is Baroness Williams of Crosby, one of the founders of the SDP. Two thirds of the 46 fellows must support the candidate.

Once Selwyn has chosen, only three other Cambridge colleges — Corpus Christi, St Catherine's and Clare — will still be looking for masters.

Selwyn's vice-master, the Rev John Sweet, was coy about the candidate. "We are looking for someone who can unify the college, who enjoys entertaining. Someone who, if not an academic, is sympathetic to academia."

● *The brick industry is suffering from piles — almost £1.54 billion of them. Such is the size of the brick mountain that* Building, *the construction magazine, ran a competition for ideas on how to shift the surplus. Brian Hoare, the bursar of Eton College, was the winner. "Construct the Great Thatcher Pyramid as a future burial place for Baroness Thatcher in memory of her time as prime minister, which coincided with the apogee of the construction industry."*



Beacon of light

AN advocate of getting tough with juvenile offenders, the Tory MP Robert Dunn practises what he preaches. Dunn, a former minister for education, hardly looks the stuff of have-a-go heroes, but he did not hesitate to do his public duty when, leaving the annual meeting of his Conservative association in Dartford, he spotted a gang of teenage youths running off with roadwork lanterns.

Fearing the lamps might end up being thrown through a window, Dunn followed them in his car, then gave chase on foot down an unlit alley. Pulling himself up to his full 6ft 1in Dunn, aged 46, barked: "Give them to me now. They are public property. I want them back."

Astonishingly, the youths obliged. It was only when he got home and told his wife that he realised he could have come unstuck. "I am hardly a boxing blue. I am one of nature's cowards really," says Dunn. Who would dare argue with that?



Late tackle

FAME has its painful side. Jonathan Webb, one of the heroes of England's victory over Scotland at Twickenham on Saturday, has found. The England full-back recently agreed to cheer up a rugby-crazy young patient at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon, where he works as an othopaedic surgeon. A word in the lad's ear from the resident sports star, the hospital thought, would do wonders for the boy's recovery.

Webb, writing in *The British Medical Journal*, records the sorry reality. After a difficult conversation he was making his exit when the youngster piped up from the pillow: "My Dad says you are crap at rugby." The aforesaid father, sitting by the bedside, made polite attempts to maintain his son was only joking. He wasn't. "Yes, you did Dad, you said he was a crap kicker." Even the Scots didn't hurt Webb that much.

● *Calling all spies: An Enigma code ciphering machine, which kept Britain one step ahead of the Germans during the war, is going on sale at Phillips next month. Like the machine, there is some mystery over the auction. The seller's name has been withheld. Perhaps it is an official secret.*

Going down a treat in Tirana

STING is an unlikely hero of Albania. The pop star cum actor has become the unexpected star turn of the BBC World Service's Albanian broadcasts, which were relaunched last month after a gap of 25 years. Part of the programme's signature tune is provided by Sting's record "Mad about You", from the album *The Soul of Cages*. It bears an uncanny resemblance to the folk music of northern Albania. Only difference is Sting uses an electric guitar, the Albanians use a *cifteli*.

FIRE! FIRE!

Must tourists abandon hope if the Tower blazes?

Nine centuries after its foundation stones were laid, the fear of unmerited death still looms at the Tower of London. An investigation in *The Times* today shows that Britain's most popular historic attraction, a maze of one-way passages and unsigned doors, has no officially approved fire prevention standards. Although the Tower shares this perverse distinction with 2,600 other Crown properties, including Buckingham Palace, the Treasury and the Palace of Westminster, such a deplorable lack of rigour at a site visited by some two million people a year, many of them children, has all the makings of a national disgrace.

Thanks to the antiquated structures of medieval royal privilege, the system of fire safety regulation in Crown properties is radically different to that applied to other sites. Under the 1971 Fire Precautions Act, shops, offices, factories, hotels and railway premises must apply to the local fire authority for a fire certificate as proof of their conformity to basic standards. In contrast, occupiers of Crown properties are not required to seek such validation and are monitored by a poorly-staffed Home Office inspection body.

Even those Crown premises that do apply for fire certificates enter a hopelessly complex bureaucratic game. According to a National Audit Office report on fire safety last year, the proportion of Crown properties awaiting certification rose from 33 per cent to 49 per cent between 1977 and 1990. In London and the South East, 48 of these applications had been gathering dust since 1964.

Where there ought to be uniformity of standards, there is instead a mess of potentially lethal anomalies, threatening life, limb and heritage. The quality of routine checks at Crown properties has been uneven since the Property Services Agency's fire protection team was disbanded in 1990. No complete record is kept of fire incidents on Crown premises, although the damage caused has cost the taxpayer as much as £7.5 million a year. Faced with this record, the Fire Protection Association, the independent advisory body on fire prevention, has described the government as "the worst fire safety manager in the country": a grim indictment of legal anachronism and bureaucratic sloth.

At the very least, the Home Office inspectorate, which employs only 27 officers, must be expanded. But even a strengthened Home Office team would still have no powers of entry, enforcement or prosecution. The root of the problem is legal rather than logistic. The Commons public accounts committee, which is to consider the audit office report on Wednesday, must look at ways of harmonising the regulation of fire safety and bringing Crown properties into the legal mainstream. The government agency managing each site must become directly accountable in law for its fire safety standards. There will be those who feel that certain properties, such as defence and security establishments, should retain their traditional exemption from fire brigade inspection; let them prove their case in public.

The removal of immunity from health service properties in 1990 should be a legislative model for a more general tightening of the regulations applicable to Crown premises. Amendment of the 1971 act may be the last thing a government already overburdened by legislative tasks wishes to undertake. But, after the Windsor Castle fire and the fortunate lack of human lives lost there, the mere thought of a blazing national monument, filled with visitors to London from home and abroad, should be persuasion enough.

ILLUSIONS OF UNITY

Weekend rhetoric will not ease the hard week ahead

John Major's address to his activists at the weekend could have come from any one of several lost Labour leaders gone by. "Disunity", he said, "is a luxury we cannot afford." New policies were being put at risk by old battles, he warned: "Once we have taken our decisions on how to proceed, then I believe we should all support those decisions". Lord Callaghan never put it better himself.

Already there is scornful talk of the Euro-rebels as "a party within a party" — a blue Militant Tendency. During the years when one of Britain's main political worries was the infiltration of the Labour party by left-wing extremists, the deselection of sitting MPs was considered the biggest danger. It is precisely this threat that Mr Major is now trying to use to his advantage in his own party. His speech on Saturday was made to an audience of constituency association officials who have as much power as Labour activists ever had to remove an MP. Mr Major's hope is that they will lean hard enough on the rebels to ensure the government its majority.

For the hard core of 25 or so rebels, such pressure will make no difference. MPs like William Cash and Nicholas Budgen believe too passionately in the rightness of their cause to be deflected by moral suasion from ministers, whips or constituency chairmen. They have no ministerial ambitions. Because they have never concealed their views, their local officials cannot even accuse them of inconsistency. Deselection is constitutionally possible but in practice highly improbable. It would quickly become martyrdom.

That leaves a soft core of 20 to 25 rebels. Attempts at private persuasion would surely have been wiser than declaring to the whole country, as Mr Major did on Saturday, that "these are difficult days. We no longer have a cushion of 100 seats, and those who want us to be successful know what that means." Such a public admission that the government's legislative programme is in trouble might have to be used as a last-ditch attempt to shame rebels when all else has failed. Perhaps all else already has failed.

Perhaps Mr Major was using his Harrogate platform to try to allay critics of his leadership. If so, he was playing into their hands. By publicly conceding his difficulties, he has encouraged the rebels to believe that they have a chance of winning. With his personal standing so low, he cannot realistically appeal to the so-called "mandate" he won for ratifying Maastricht at the last election. For a politician to pretend he has authority when he does not is the best way to lose what little he has left.

The prime minister deserves some sympathy for his plight. It is in many ways harder to lead a strong and decisive government with a majority of 20 than with one of 100. That is why he needs to adjust his style of government to suit the circumstances. It is no use his simply trying to sound as resolute as his predecessor.

This week the resolve of the government to force the pace on the Maastricht bill will be tested severely. But on so highly contentious a bill, the existence of a 20-strong majority and a 50-strong group of rebels points also to a better solution. If Mr Major believes that the Euro-sceptics are simply cussed and that the arguments for ratification are unanswerable, he should put them to the voters at large. The result would be three weeks of intense debate in the country, followed by a referendum. The issue would then be settled once and for all, and the government could get on with the other bills it needs to pass.

THE OTHER GERMANS

A united nation needs a broader franchise



There were some notable absentees from the German provincial elections in the state of Hesse yesterday. Turks, Croats and other foreigners who settled in Germany 20 or more years ago are as far as ever from becoming German citizens. In an election that was seen as a barometer of support for the racialist far right, the *Auslaender* had to stay away from the ballot box.

Germany's restrictive citizenship rules, barely changed since 1913, are based on the principle of *ius sanguinis*. Germans are defined by blood rather than their place of birth. This anachronistic law is a real obstacle to creating a sensible multicultural society in Germany and does little to discourage the xenophobia of the fringe nationalists who set fire to Turkish worker hostels or harrass foreign children.

The Federal government in Bonn must address this neglected problem. There are 6.5 million foreigners resident in Germany, about 8 per cent of the population. Many have made, and are continuing to make, a lasting contribution to the German economy. One in 12 jobs is held by a so-called "guest worker". Originally hired as temporary workers in the 1960s, the Turks have been moving out of heavy industry into the service sector, opening restaurants and garages, and creating 140,000 new jobs.

Yet the German nationality laws confine even long-term foreign residents to the margins of society. Foreign children, though born and educated in Germany, are barred from becoming civil servants. It is very rare, for example, for a Turk to become a police officer in a German city. Every year 30,000 Turkish children are born in Germany. But only about 1,000 Turks a year succeed in crossing the many hurdles of naturalisation.

The Bonn government's Commissioner for Foreigners, Cornelia Schmalz-Jacobsen, has proposed that the children of foreigners whose parents live in Germany should have an automatic right of citizenship and that others should be allowed to become German after eight years. She also urges the government to abandon its opposition to dual citizenship. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats, who are trying to draw up their own proposals, believe that citizenship should be granted only after 15 years of residence. The government continues to worry about foreigners having mixed loyalties. In the case of guest workers from former Yugoslavia, there could indeed be some individual conflict of interest.

But the main source of paralysis for Bonn is the fear that citizenship will become an issue in next year's general election campaign. The far right could steal important votes from the Christian Democrats on this most sensitive of matters. Chancellor Kohl should shrug off these party political considerations and take a lead on citizenship. He will be remembered in history as the chancellor who united the two German states. To dodge the question of who is, or is not, a German detracts from that achievement.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Honours due in a classless society

From Mr J. A. Bound

Sir, Sovereign states have usually awarded two kinds of honours (reports and leading article, March 5).

The first is for distinguished service and is conferred upon persons otherwise undistinguished. Awards for gallantry and devoted voluntary service are examples. The proposed tidying-up of these offers few problems.

The second is more difficult. States have always awarded distinctions of title or status to their richest and most powerful subjects just because these people are rich or powerful, or both. The prospect of an additional distinction attracts their service at little cost, and an award can ensure their continued allegiance and support. The difficulty is that these awards may be used to support a faction rather than the state. We are fortunate that the influence of the Sovereign limits this.

Abandonment of present practice for such awards would thus leave a need for public distinctions for the great. These might well be less acceptable — for instance, highly-paid sinecures or, worse still, unmerited appointments to quangos. Therefore, let automatic knighthoods for generals, High Court judges, permanent secretaries, courtiers and chairmen of ICI continue, as also life peerages for politicians.

I write as one deserving in neither category.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
J. A. BOUND,
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1.
March 5.

From the Principal of Queen Mary and Westfield College

Sir, I have no view one way or the other about the custom of knighting newly appointed High Court judges, but I am puzzled by the prime minister's justification for maintaining the practice, namely "to preserve the independence of the Bench". It is difficult to see how an honour granted by the state conduces to the independence of the judiciary, and Her Majesty's judges may feel somewhat affronted by the suggestion.

If the true reasons are different, and have to do with "recruitment and retention", to use the current jargon, it is a pity that the prime minister could not have been more ingenuous.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM ZELLICK,
Principal, Queen Mary and Westfield College,
Mile End Road, E1.
March 5.

From Mr William Wolff

Sir, Now that Mr Major seems about to deprive some of our most senior civil servants of their non-monetary rewards, may we assume that he will take immediate, balancing steps to bring their pay into line with that of the private sector?

This nation cannot afford either a stampede or a seepage to the City or industry of the outstanding ability and integrity we are privileged to have in the top ranks of our public service.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM WOLFF,
Highmoore Cross,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
March 5.

From Mr Victor Black

Sir, So, everyone will be able to nominate somebody for honours. If only one adult in a hundred feels he or she knows someone deserving an honour, something like 300,000 forms may arrive twice a year (will they merit a polite reply?).

To follow up the proposals will be a colossal task, presumably needing an entire new department. The system may or may not result in the classless society; but it could well be a serious initiative in the battle against unemployment.

Yours faithfully,
V. BLACK,
Lower Farm House,
Coln Rogers, Gloucestershire.

From Mr W. J. Warren

Sir, The honours nomination form: how may the blackball operate?

Yours faithfully,
W. J. WARREN,
63 Chipstead Street, Fulham, SW6.

From Mr Jonathan Henty

Sir, The permanent secretary's memorandum to which you refer in your leading article of March 5, "Up to a point, prime minister", was surely a forgery. Sir Humphrey Appleby would certainly have known that he could not be a CB, KCB and GCB at the same time.

I remain, Sir, your humble and obedient servant,
JONATHAN HENTY,
24 Old Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

From Mr David Watt

Sir, Political and business leaders on the Continent tend to wear a little badge or rosette in their buttonholes. I suggest that in the interests of moving closer to Europe ours should follow suit.

What would be a suitable dignity or honour to be discreetly (though publicly) signalled thus; and what should be the buttonhole symbol?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WATT,
40 Brookfield,
5 Highgate West Hill, N6.

Dr Habgood, society and the press

From Mr Rupert Woollcombe

Sir, I was most encouraged by the Archbishop of York's lead, in his letter which you published on March 2, in giving such trenchant expression to the long overdue criticism of the trivialisation and distortion by journalists of the public discussion of important moral and political questions.

The headline which you printed above Dr Habgood's letter — "Archbishop on the roots of crime" — was itself an example of such distortion, in that it ignored the main thrust of the letter, for which a more appropriate headline might have been "Archbishop on irresponsible journalism."

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT WOOLLCOMBE,
Ellerie Cottage,
Fasnacloich, Appin, Argyll.

From the Reverend Christopher Fenton

Sir, The Archbishop of York's "amazement" at the media's selection of the passage from his television interview with Sir David Frost which dealt with the conflict of values between Church and government is itself surprising. For it is the public record of our dividedness as human beings which is an endless source of fascination to us — and therefore sells newspapers.

It is when royalty is maritally unfaithful, when ten-year-olds are capable of killing, or when a policeman weeps at the funeral of a two-year-old — these are the moments which, when recorded by the media, remind us of the contradiction which is at the heart of our own selves.

It even comforts us, in a perverse kind of way, to see that there are others like us, and that we are not alone in our paradox and ambiguity.

Yours truly,
CHRISTOPHER FENTON,
Saint Anne's,
Under Down, Gloucester Road,
Ledbury, Herefordshire.

From Father Howard Camm

Sir, I must take issue with the comments made by Mr John Townend, MP (report, March 1), in response to remarks made by the Archbishop of York in his television interview with Sir David Frost.

Mr Townend's suggestions that "the Church is responsible for our morals" and that it should "leave economics to the politicians" are disingenuous. Moral choices are made by individuals; to suggest that the Church is the vicarious conscience of a nation, the government of which must be left to itself, free to pursue its own policies, devoid of any Christian critique, is to abdicate responsibility. To seek to ensure a working environment free of adverse comment is wholly inappropriate to a democracy.

The Conservative party has been in power for a number of years, but does Mr Townend really believe that its policies have been of so little effect that it is freed from any responsibility for the shaping of society? Could it be that things are declining so rapidly that a certain distancing from the situation is required?

I work in an area of the country in which the policies of the Conservative party have caused havoc — declining services, families robbed of an income by pit closures, young people from whom hope has been stolen, escalating crime and insufficient police officers to cope with it.

Any party not prepared to accept the responsibilities of the office into which it has been elected should step aside, and make room for one that is. In the meantime, the Church must tirelessly denounce that which it sees to be iniquitous, whether in the policies of a political party or otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD CAMM,
77 Weymouth Drive, Deneside Park, Seaham, County Durham.
March 2.

From Mr D. R. Townley

Sir, Dr Habgood's remarks on television imply a deterministic view of behaviour. If social conditions are responsible for criminal behaviour (which may be true), then social conditions are responsible for our leaders' behaviour. Who is responsible for anything?

This is a far cry from the Church teachings of free will and individual morality and from the Christian view that one's position in society matters little in the eyes of God.

Perhaps the Church should come clean and join the ranks of social workers by adopting sociological underpinnings to behaviour..

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TOWNLEY,
52 Worcester Road, Sutton, Surrey.

From Mrs Peter Allen

Sir, The Archbishop of York tells us, in his letter, that he is "constantly amazed by the ability of the media to make bricks without straw".

I am constantly amazed at the ability of the clergy — two archbishops' letters in *The Times* of March 2, one sociological and one political — to make humanistic bricks in the media without any mention of God!

My little pupil, aged four, tells me that "there are good guys and bad guys". Has he understood a fact that our Church leaders seem to have forgotten?

Yours sincerely,
HEATHER ALLEN,
Hope Cottage,
Stenton, East Lothian.

Legal aid for disabled

From Mr John M. Taylor, MP for Solihull (Conservative)

Sir, The letter from the executive director of the Spinal Injuries Association (March 3) concerning the Lord Chancellor's proposed changes in legal aid eligibility gives a misleading picture. It would be most unfortunate if, as a result, disabled people were deterred from applying for legal aid.

People on income support will continue to receive legal aid and Green Form advice, free of contribution. In addition, disability living allowance, attendance allowance, and constant attendance allowance will, as now, be disregarded when assessing financial eligibility for civil legal aid. From April, these factors will also be disregarded when assessing eligibility for Green Form legal advice.

Some other benefits will, as now, continue to be taken into account when assessing an individual's disposable income. But the figure for disposable income is only arrived at after a full assessment of means in which allowances are made for dependents and many essential items of expenditure.

After the measures are implemented, 21 per cent of households will still be eligible for legal aid without a contribution, and a further 27 per cent of households will be able to receive legal aid on payment of a contribution. So, in all, almost half of households will be covered by the legal aid scheme.

Yours etc,
JOHN TAYLOR
(Parliamentary Secretary),
Lord Chancellor's Department,
30 Great Peter Street, SW1.

Unkind cuts

From Mrs Elizabeth Ringe

Sir, I live in an area of outstanding beauty under the South Downs and have been appalled by the damage done around these parts lately to our beautiful hedges by flailing machines.

The awfulness of the shredded trunks and grotesque shapes left behind is especially tragic now, when the sap is rising. How can ancient hedges containing wild roses, guelder roses, blackberries, hawthorn, hazel and many other species recover from these horrendous onslaughts?

Yours sincerely,
ELIZABETH RINGE,
Norwood, Graffham,
Nr Petworth, West Sussex.

Thieving magpies

From Mr Terence Godfrey

Sir, I note (letters, February 27) that the annual round of magpie-bashing is once more upon us. Mr Edmonds has successfully lured another 20 magpies into his traps to their death, so that other more suitable wild birds in this garden may prosper; Dr Swan urges us to trap or shoot them, presumably to enable more game birds to be available for slaughtering later in the season, in the name of sport. It's a funny old world.

Yours faithfully,
T. GODFREY,
7 Lynton Lane, Cassington, Oxford.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Peking power play

From Lord Shawcross, QC

Sir, Your bellicose leader, "Power play in Peking" (March 4), disregards the Joint Declaration agreement of 1984 between the United Kingdom and China, the Chinese Basic Law and the several exchanges of letters between HMG and the Chinese government since then.

Hitherto all negotiations and agreements about the future of Hong Kong have been between the two sovereign governments concerned. How could it have been otherwise? In 1984 Hong Kong had no representative government of its own and Great Britain, having had power over it for 150 years as a Crown colony, had shown no notable interest in introducing democracy.

In 1997 China will inevitably resume full sovereign power over Hong Kong — and that, unfortunately for Hong Kong, at a time when its importance to China could quite easily be by-passed by the further development of Shanghai, already taking place at a prodigious rate. In these circumstances it really is not to be thought that the Hong Kong legislative council can stand as an obstacle over-riding the resumption of direct negotiation between Britain and China.

In those negotiations the governor would no doubt be fully involved, as his distinguished predecessors were in the earlier agreements; but formally they must be between the sovereign powers.

Yours truly,
HARTLEY SHAWCROSS,
House of Lords.
March 4.

Topsy-turvy white stuff at the Tate

From Mr Philip Le Brocq

Sir, May I congratulate Richard Cork on his brilliantly satirical review today (Arts, March 5) of Robert Ryman's exhibition at the Tate, headlined "Made of the white stuff".

Having been present at the press preview and heard Mr Ryman talk about his minimalist art I couldn't help chortling at your critic's beautifully two-edged comment that "intuition is central to his way of working, and some of his most delectable images are charged with spontaneous sensuality".

When asked about the significance of a wavering line splitting a white picture in two, Mr Ryman remarked, in my hearing, "Well ... aah ... it kind of separates the two halves with ... aah ... a spontaneous ... aah ... line". This was impressive.

Like your reviewer I just soaked myself in the "sensual spontaneity" of white on white! Like him I was amazed and deeply dumbfounded by the momentous way the pigment leaves an "irregular line of hairs-breadth brown to act as a foil for the imperturbable milkiness". None of us cried over such spilled milk.

I, too, found that "Ryman gradually eliminates gesture", relying no longer on the paint at all but on the "mechanised aridity" of the "steel, nuts, bolts and anodised aluminium". What an artistic way to achieve the ultimate "Paradoxical Absolute" of one of the earlier titles!

Your *coup de grâce* of printing the illustration of "Wedding Picture, 1961" on its side, and then providing textual clues as otherwise this would only have been apparent to those who had seen the exhibition, was the clue to reading between Mr Cork's flattering lines.

Mr Ryman should be delighted that at least one critic has seen through his minimalistic mirage.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP Le BROCQ,
The Cottage, Le Bourg,
St Clement, Jersey, C.I.
March 5.

Pioneer hospital

From Baroness Jeger of St Pancras

Sir, I hope the four members of the miniscule Tomlinson committee read your obituary (March 3) of Robert Tiffany, chief nursing officer and director of patient services at the Royal Marsden Hospital.

Tomlinson dismissed the Royal Marsden as "isolated and vulnerable". Your obituary of this distinguished nurse described the universality of the pioneering work of the Royal Marsden, in which the nursing aspect of cancer patients was developed. For cancer sufferers, too late to wait for new research by clever scientists, nursing is the most important relief of their affliction.

You said that the Marsden was the place from which Robert Tiffany was instrumental in setting up the first international cancer nursing conference in London in 1976. In 1984 he became the founding president of Nurses in Cancer Care and later the chairman of the European Oncology Nursing Society.

Not bad for work made possible by "an isolated and vulnerable" institution. Maybe Tomlinson was wrong about some other hospitals.

Truly — as always,
LENA M. JEGER,
House of Lords.
March 3.

Identity problems

From Ms Dolores Garland

Sir, As a secretary, I have to deal with a large number of telephone callers, many of whom I don't know and have never heard of (Mr Walsh's letter, February 26). It is part of a secretary's job to screen telephone calls to eliminate unwanted sales reps, dubious market research companies and similar pests.

Is it really too much to ask that callers state their business? Only a moron would put an unknown caller through with no questions asked. When a secretary asks "What's it in connection with?", she neither needs nor wants chapter and verse; time, after all is money.

Yours faithfully,
DOLORES GARLAND,
6 Walpole Crescent,
Teddington, Middlesex.

From Mr St. John R. B. Marston

Sir, May I suggest to Mr Walsh that when faced with a secretary's "what's it in connection with?" barrier, he simply replies: "I would like to discuss doing business". This usually has the desired effect.

Yours faithfully,
St. JOHN R. B. MARSTON,
87 Valley Road,
Ipswich, Suffolk.

From Mr Wyndham Thomas

Sir, Two replies, spoken with friendly confidence, usually work well: "He'll know"; or "Just tell her it's me". The latter never fails.

Yours faithfully,
WYNDHAM THOMAS,
8 Westwood Park Road,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 7: Mrs Henrietta Ryan was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested her with the Insignia of a Member of the Royal Victorian Order.

Mr Thomas Galbraith was received by The Queen at Windsor Castle when Her Majesty decorated him with a Bar to the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

March 7: The Prince Edward this evening attended the British Academy of Film and Television Arts Craft Awards, the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, followed by Dinner at the Central Television Studios and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Nottinghamshire (Sir Andrew Buchanan, Bt), the Chairman, British Academy of Film and Television Arts (Mr Richard Price) and the Chairman, Central Television Plc (Mr Leslie Hill).

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 7: The Princess Royal, President, Federation Equestre Internationale, this evening departed from Heathrow Airport, London, for Rio de Janeiro to attend the Bureau Meeting and General Assembly of the International Equestrian Federation.

Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 6: The Prince Edward this afternoon attended the England versus Scotland International Rugby Football Match, Twickenham, Middlesex, and was received by Mr Danie Serfontein (President, the Rugby Football Union).

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

March 6: The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, accompanied by Commander Timothy Laurence RN, this afternoon attended the England versus Scotland International Rugby Football Match, Twickenham, Middlesex.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 6: The Princess of Wales this afternoon arrived at Gatwick Airport, London, from Nepal.

The Lady Sarah McCorquodale, Captain Edward Musto RM, Mr Geoffrey Crawford and Surgeon Commander Robin Clark RN were in attendance.

Birthdays today

Major-General Sir Christopher Airy, royal equerry, 59; Sir John Badenoch, physician, 73; Mr Gyles Brandreth, author and broadcaster, 45; Sir Julian Bullard, diplomat, 65; Sir Anthony Caro, sculptor, 69; Sir James Comyn, former High Court judge, 72; Mr Phil Edmonds, cricketer, 42; Miss Anne Fisher, former headmistress, Wycombe Abbey School, 80; Mr Michael Grade, chief executive, Channel 4, 50; the Hon Douglas Hurd, MP, 63; Mr Michael Inchbald, designer, 73; Miss Ann Jenner, ballerina, 49; Miss Lynn Redgrave, actress, 50; Rabbi Professor Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi, 45; Miss Lynn Seymour, ballerina, 54; Professor Norman Stone, modern historian, 52; Mr Robert Tear, tenor, 54; Mr David Wilkie, swimmer, 39.

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research has appointed Professor Verna Wright, Professor of Rheumatology at the University of Leeds, as Chairman of the Council's Executive and Finance Committee from November 1993 in succession to Dr Colin G. Barnes.

Appointment

Helena Molyneux to be director of personnel for the British Council from March 26. She is at present head of European human resources at Bankers Trust.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Fothergill, physician, Wensleydale, Yorkshire, 1712; Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, composer, Weimer, Germany, 1714; Richard Howe, Earl Howe, admiral, London, 1726; William Roscoe, historian, Liverpool, 1753; Charles Rossi, sculptor, Nottingham, 1762; Kenneth Grahame, author of *The Wind in the Willows*, Edinburgh, 1859; Frederic William Goudy, typographer, Bloomington, Illinois, 1865; Otto Hahn, pioneer of nuclear fission, Nobel laureate 1944, Frankfurt am Main, 1879.

DEATHS: King William III, reigned with Mary II 1689-94, then alone to 1702, London, 1702; Abraham Darby, iron founder, Worcester, 1717; Sir William Chambers, architect, London, 1796; Sawrey Gilpin, animal painter, London, 1807; Hector Berlioz, composer, Paris, 1869; Millard Fillmore, 13th American President 1850-53, Buffalo, New York, 1874; Henry Ward Beecher, preacher, Brookline, Massachusetts, 1887; John Ericsson, pioneer of the screw propeller, New York, 1889; Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, airship constructor, Charlottenburg, Germany, 1917; Sherwood Anderson, novelist and poet, Colon, Panama, 1941; Sir Thomas Beecham, conductor, London, 1961; Harold Lloyd, film comedian, Beverly Hills, 1971; Richard Austen Butler, politician, Great Yeldham, Essex, 1982; Sir William Walton, composer, Ischia, 1983.

Accession of Queen Anne (reigned until 1714), 1702.

Nature notes



A pied wagtail

BIRDS are beginning to drift north again, and go back up to the hills. Pied wagtails are making their way to Scotland, where they are not much seen in winter except along the coast. Reed buntings are heading for reedy upland pools: the males are coming back into their striking summer plumage, with black head and white collar. The thin calls of meadow pipits can be heard overhead: most of our wintering birds are visitors from across the North Sea, while our own summer nesters have mainly gone to more southern countries in Europe. Along western coasts, Manx shearwaters that have spent the winter in warmer oceans are starting to glide over the waves again: they will soon be visiting the islands where they nest.

Leaves are unfolding on the midland hawthorns, which are a distinct species from the common hawthorn: their leaves are less sharply indented than those of the more widespread species. Thick clumps of leaves of cuckoo-pint are now a conspicuous sight on road side verges. Stinging nettles are growing energetically: the new leaves at the top of the plant are often pale yellow. The trefoil leaves of wood sorrel are appearing in the woods.

DJM

The Queen asks young for help

THE Queen today calls on young people to raise the quality of life and improve human values.

In her annual Commonwealth Day message, the Queen will say: "I know from the many letters I receive from young people that their generation cares deeply about the rights of the individual, about the sufferings of others and about making a better world for us all to live in. I believe the youth of the Commonwealth is well placed to give a lead in showing how human values can be improved."

The Queen, as Head of the Commonwealth, this afternoon attends a Commonwealth Observance Day service at Westminster Abbey with Prince Edward and 2,000 representatives of all major religions in the Commonwealth.

Her message, which will be read by Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth secretary general, emphasises the aspirations endorsed by the Commonwealth heads of government when they met in Harare in 1991. "We share the same world but we do not share the same opportunities," she says.

"If we want to exercise and enlarge our rights and opportunities, we have to safeguard the rights and opportunities of others.

"The young people of the Commonwealth have the future in their hands. May they keep their vision of human values alive and their determination to achieve them undiminished. And may our 50 nations, sharing our experience and working together to enhance the quality of life, send an example to the rest of the world."

ADRIAN BROOKS



Chorus lines: young singers from all over East Anglia joining in a singing day at the Corn Exchange, Cambridge, yesterday organised by the British Federation of Young Choirs. Under the direction of Laszlo Heltay they rehearsed and performed Carl Orff's Carmina Burana with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra

Ordination of women could be delayed for years

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England could be facing a constitutional crisis and a renewal of calls for disestablishment over the issue of women priests.

The legislation to ordain women priests, narrowly passed by the general synod last year, begins its passage through Parliament in two weeks. The ecclesiastical committee of parliament will meet to discuss the *Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure* for the first time on Monday March 22.

It had been hoped that both houses of parliament would debate the legislation in June, and that the first women might be ordained before the end of the year. However, supporters of women priests fear that it could be held up by the ecclesiastical committee for months, even years.

Church lawyers say that there is no limit on how long the 15 MPs and 15 members of the House of Lords on the committee can take to make up their minds. In the past controversial legislation has been delayed for months.

Both sides in the debate on women priests have been lobbying hard. Members of the Movement for the Ordination of Women are visiting MPs in their surgeries. But some members of the ecclesiastical committee who support women priests say that sections of the legislation are unworkable.

A parliamentary delay of months or years on legislation to ordain women priests, which is supported by at least two-thirds of the church, would almost certainly lead to renewed calls for the church to be disestablished.

Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead and a member of the committee, said that he supported women priests but not the second part of the legislation. "It is a nasty, vindictive clause which really prevents anyone who opposes women priests being promoted to the bench of bishops," he said. "Women priests by the summer is totally realistic if this vindictive clause is dropped. Otherwise, it is going to be a lengthy process."

The Tory MP Emma Nicholson, who is not on the committee, is forming a group this week "to support the Church of England in its hour of need". She said she was not convinced that a majority of the committee would vote in favour of the legislation. Mrs Nicholson said: "Delay is the most effective weapon in the parliamentary handbook because you can delay something until it dies."

The role of the committee is to examine the legislation and decide whether they find it "expedient". If they do, they pass it on to parliament for debate. It then goes forward for Royal Assent and "promulgation", or declaration, in the synod. Only then could a woman be ordained priest in England.

If the committee fails to find the legislation expedient, they send it back to the general synod. The committee can take months or years calling witnesses from the synod to answer their concerns. If they still fail to find it expedient, the general synod's legislative committee can put it straight to parliament.

Church appointments

The Rev Clive Burland, Vicar, All Saints, Gurnard, Isle of Wight: to be *also* Rector, St John the Baptist, Northwood, Isle of Wight (Portsmouth).
The Rev Richard Chown, retired: to be a non-stipendiary Assistant Priest, Harpsden (Oxford).
The Rev Alan Davies, Vicar, Hartshill, Nuneaton: to be Vicar, St Andrews, Eastern Green, Coventry (Coventry).
The Rev William (Bill) Day, Assistant Curate, St Peter, Bishop's Waltham: to be Priest-in-charge, St John, Greatham w. Holy Rood, Empshott and St Peter and St Paul, Hawkley w. Priors Dean (Portsmouth).
The Rev Clive Deverell, Deanery Youth Officer, St Luke's, West Holloway and Islington (London): to be Parish Evangelist, Water Eaton, Milton Keynes (Oxford).
The Rev Charles Draper, Curate w. responsibility for Youth Work, Maltby Team Ministry (Sheffield): to be Rector, The Claydons (Oxford).
The Rev Michael Goode, Team Rector, Crawley Team Ministry (Chichester): to be Team Rector, Abingdon Team Ministry, and Vicar, Shippon (Oxford).
The Rev Andrew Gough, Vicar, Keiley and Oakengates (Lichfield): to be Vicar, Roborough Team Ministry (Exeter).
The Rev John Hall, Priest-in-charge, Woodham Mortimer w. Hazeleigh and Woodham Walter and Industrial Chaplain (Chelmsford): to be Rector, Fairstead w. Terling and White Notley w. Faulkbourne, same diocese.
The Rev Stephen Hewitt, Curate, Eaton, Norwich (Norwich): to be Vicar, St Paul's, Warwick (Coventry).
The Rev Valerie Hicks, Parish Deacon, St Mary's, Thatcham: to be Minister in charge, St Peter's, Quarrendon, Aylesbury Team Ministry (Oxford).
The Rev Canon John Holmes, Vicar, St James, Manston, Leeds (Ripon): to be Diocesan Missioner, same diocese.
The Rev Canon Brian Jones, returned from Sierra Leone: to be Priest-in-charge, St Francis, Frimley (Guildford).
The Rev Simon Jones, Assistant Curate, St John, Hildenborough (Rochester): to be Assistant Curate, Holy Rood, Crofton, Fareham (Portsmouth).
The Rev Brian Kelly, Assistant Curate (NSM), Redland Parish Church (Bristol): to be Assistant Curate, Scarborough, St Mary w Christ church and the Holy Apostles (York).
The Rev David Lawson, Anglican Chaplain to the Coventry city hospitals (excluding Walsgrave), and Priest-in-charge, St James, Whitley, Coventry: to be Vicar, St John the Baptist, South Leamington (Coventry).
The Rev John Lilley, Team Vicar, Beaminster Area (Salisbury): to be Priest-in-charge, Fradswell, Gayton, Milwich and Weston-on-Trent and Hixon and Stowe-by-Chartley (Lichfield).
The Rev David Lunn, Rector, Haversham w Little Linford and Tyringham w Filgrave: to be Team Rector, Walton Team Ministry, Local Ecumenical Project (Oxford).
The Rev Robert Mitchell, Chaplain, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge (Ely): to be Chaplain, St Mary's Hospital, in the Portsmouth Hospitals Chaplaincy Team Ministry (Portsmouth).
The Rev John Peters, Assistant Curate, Virginia Water (Guildford): to a post in Minnesota, USA.
The Rev David Prothero, Priest-in-charge, Bath, Batwick: to be Rector, Bath, Batwick, a newly created benefice (Bath and Wells).
The Rev Julian Raffay, Assistant Curate, Adel, Leeds: to be Assistant Curate, Hutton (Ripon).
The Rev William Robson, Royal Army Chaplains' Department: to be Rector, Barton Stacey and Bullington and Hursbourne Priors and Longparish (Winchester).
The Rev Robert Simpson, Curate, Heyford, Grendon and Little Oakhill, Chetwall, Elmdon w Wendon Lofts and Strethall (Chelmsford): to be Vicar, Shirwell Team Ministry (Exeter).
The Rev Arun Thomas, Minister-in-charge, St Thomas, Wavertree, Liverpool (Liverpool): to be Vicar, St Mary w St Paulinus, Cray (Rochester).
The Rev Robin Trew, Curate, Holy Trinity, Coventry: to be Vicar, Shilterbeld w Bearley (Coventry).
The Rev Roger Trumper, Team Vicar, St Mary's, Shenley (Oxford): to be Rector, St Mary, Byfleet (Guildford).
The Rev David Wills, Priest-in-charge, St George, Kenwyn: to be Vicar, St George and St John, Truro (Truro).
The Rev Anthony Wright, Vicar, Evenwood: to be Priest-in-charge, united benefice of Satley and Tow Law (Durham).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Leslie Green, Vicar, Nether w Upper Poppleton (York): to retire on health grounds as from March 31.
The Rev Canon Trevor Howard, Rector, Belchamp Otten and Belchamp Walter w Bulmer (Chelmsford): to retire as from March 31, when he will be appointed a Canon Emeritus of Chelmsford Cathedral.
The Rev Canon Raymond Knell, Vicar, Heworth, Gateshead (Durham): to resign as from April 11.
The Rev William Lucas, Rector, Broseley w Benthall, and Priest-in-charge, Jackfield, Linley, Willey and Barrow (Hereford): to retire as from June 27.
The Rev Canon Thomas New, Vicar, All Saints, Banstead (Guildford): to retire as from July 31.
The Rev Canon Charles Manchester, Rector, Newdigate (Guildford): to retire as from September 5.
The Rev John Venns, Rector, St James, Abinger w Cold Harbour (Guildford): to retire as from September 30.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain T.N. Beckh, RE, and Miss R.J. Watts
The engagement is announced between Tim, son of Mr R.L. Beckh, of Beattock, Dumfriesshire, and Mrs M.A.N. Martin, of Alwalton, Cambridgeshire, and Rebecca, only daughter of Mr and Mrs C.J. Watts, of Newbold upon Avon, Warwickshire.

Mr G.M. Dudman and Miss L.J. Watkins
The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Dudman, of Cleator Moor, Cumbria, and Leah, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Watkins, of Ingrave, Essex.

Mr P.W. Ellemann and Miss C. Lyster
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr and Mrs Søren Ellemann, of Moor Park, Middlesex, and Christina, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Lyster, of Hammersmith, London.

Mr M.J. Headley and Miss G.C. Cockroft
The engagement is announced between Malcolm, younger son of Mr and Mrs Brian Headley, of Thornton-le-Dale, Yorkshire, and Georgina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Cockroft, of Arborfield, Berkshire.

Mr J.P. Muscat and Miss T. Storey
The engagement is announced between Jerome, youngest son of Dr and Mrs Salvino Muscat, of Mells, Somerset, and Terri, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Terry Storey, of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

Mr V.T. Beresford and Miss E.D. Hoskin
The engagement is announced between Valentine, son of Lord Patrick Beresford, of Binfield, Berkshire, and Mrs Julia Green, of Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, and Evelyne, second daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hoskin, of Epping, Essex.

Marriages

Dr A.J. Haines and Mrs R.M. Champion de Crespigny
The marriage took place quietly at Farm Street Roman Catholic Church, London, W1, on March 6, between Tony Haines and Rose Marie de Crespigny.

Mr E.J. Ruane and Miss G.F. Kippen
The marriage took place on Saturday in St Patrick's Basilica, Montreal, of Mr Erik Ruane, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Tim Ruane, of Wolferton, Norfolk, and Miss Francesca Kippen, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Bruce Kippen, of Mount Pleasant Avenue, Montreal. Monsignor Russell Breen officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Susanna Giordano, Queenie Copping, Carla Corradini, Edwina Nicolle, Lise Ruane, Alison Shore and Elizabeth Thrasher. Mr Christopher Botsford was best man.

A reception was held at the University Club and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Memorial services

Mrs Anthony Rhodes
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Rosaleen Frances Rhodes was held at St John's, Hyde Park Crescent, Bayswater, on March 4. The Rev Oliver Ross officiated. The address was given by Mr Raleigh Trevelyan and the reading by Sir Reresby Sitwell, brother-in-law. Among those present were:

Captain Anthony Rhodes (husband), Lady Sitwell (sister), Mr Richard Hayward and Mrs Hayward (niece), Eileen Marchioness of Bute, Viscount Mountgarret, Sir Henry Lawson-Tancred (also representing the Rev C. Lawson-Tancred and Mrs Douglas Nicholson) (cousins), Mr and Mrs John Rhodes (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr Richard Rhodes (brother-in-law), Miss Sarah Rhodes.

Mary Duchess of Roxburghe, Baron and Baroness Vaes, Lady Aberdare, Lady Bowker, Lord Gowrie, Sir David and Lady Hildyard, Lady Jessel, Julia Viscountess Lymington, Lady Marley, Lady Rupert Nevill, Lord and Lady George Scott, Lady Thorneycroft.

Mr Vicente Arroyo, Mr Rolf Andresen, Mr Philip Astley-Jones, Mr Raul Balin, the Hon Toby Buchan, Professor Maurice Cranston, Mr and Mrs Nigel Clive, Major and Mrs Ivor Crosthwaite, Mr H C K Wolley Dod, Mr and Mrs Elsworth Donnell, Mrs Adam Edwards, Air Marshal and Mrs John Elton, Major and Mrs Desmond FitzGerald, Mrs Nancy Gray, Mrs Henry Green, the Hon Mrs D Hardinge, Mrs James Hyatt, Mr and Mrs Roderick Trighton Clark, Mr and Mrs Vane Ivanovic, Father Jean-Marie Charles-Roux, Mr John Lloyd Morgan, Mr Philip Mansel, Mr and Mrs F W Maines, Commander George and the Hon Sara Marten, Mrs Terence Maxwell, Mr and Mrs Derwent May, Mr and Mrs Lowry de Montfort, Mrs Pauline Neville, Mrs Ann Pascoe, Mr Dennis Pehrson, Mr Gavin Rankin, Mrs Anne Reid, Mr and Mrs Barry Sainsbury, Mr Anthony Shiel, Mrs Geoffrey de Silbert, Mr Graham de Silva, Mr Francis Sitwell, Mr Michael Teiter-Smollett, Mr William Teiter-Smollett, Mrs Margot Walmsley, Mr John Whitaker and Mr Tony Whitaker.

Mrs Eleanor Hibbert
A memorial service for Mrs Eleanor Hibbert (Jean Plaidy) was held on Saturday at St Peter's, Kensington Park Road. The Rev Andrew Watson officiated and read the lesson. Alexandra Hamilton, great-granddaughter, read from the works of William Shakespeare and Miss Elizabeth Walter gave an address. Miss Sandra Ford, soprano, sang César Franck's *Panis Angelicus*.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by Prince Edward, will attend the Commonwealth Day Observance service in Westminster Abbey at 3.15; and later they will attend the Commonwealth Day reception at Marlborough House at 6.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (cot death research and support), will attend the judging of the Christmas card competition at 35 Belgrave Square at 11.00.

Princess Alexandra, as President of the British School at Rome, will open an exhibition of the drawings of James Hakewill at Hazlitt Gooden and Fox, Bury Street, SW1, at 6.30.

School news

Guildford High School
Scholarships and Exhibitions 1993

Scholarships: 7+: Maxine Driver, GHS; Eleanor Bush, St Hugh, Woking. 11+: Victoria Chivers, Rowan, 11+ Music: Helena Thomas, GHS; 6th Form: Natalie Jagger, GHS; Tamsin Rickard, GHS; Anne Woods, GHS. 6th Form Music: Sarah Morley, GHS; Clare Sims, GHS.

Exhibitions: 11+: Charlotte Murphy, Horsell, Woking; Louise Roe, Danes Hill. 11+ Music: Catherine Dawson, St Catherine's, Camberley; Anna Smith, GHS. 6th Form: Rachel Gerry, GHS. 6th Form Music: Alexandra Miles, GHS.

Sebring Award: Elizabeth Wood, GHS.

The City School
Miss Barbara Peck, Deputy Head of Chesham High School, Buckinghamshire, has been appointed Head of The City School, Lincoln, in succession to Mr Julian Wilde who will become Headmaster of King Edward VII School, Lytham St Annes from September 1993.

Latest wills

Air Chief Marshal Sir Denis Hensley Fulton Barnett, of Rushall, Pewsey, Wiltshire, who as Commander Allied Air Task Force, Near East, was in overall command of the British and French air forces during the Suez campaign of 1956, left estate valued at £99,300 net.

Admiral Sir Guy Grantham, of Nayland, Suffolk, former Governor of Malta, Principal Naval ADC to the Queen 1958-9, vice-chairman of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission 1963-70 annd governor of the Corps of Commissionaires, left estate valued at £81,040 net.

Major-General Adrian Price Webley Hope, of Charlton Horethorne, Somerset, Deputy Master General of the Ordnance, Ministry of Defence, 1964-6, left estate valued at £534,242 net.

Lady Virginia Grant-Lawson, of Ogdens, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,153,102 net.

She left £500,000 to the Lady Virginia Grant-Lawson charitable trust, and £1,000 to St Timothy's School, Steventon, Maryland, USA.

Other estates include (net, before tax):

Mr Louis Roy Ashley, of Ilford, Essex £548,562
Mr William Bentley, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire ... £821,964
Mr John Davidson, of Sheffield, South Yorkshire £508,039

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Woe betide him who builds his palace on unfairness and completes its roof-chambers with injustice, compelling his countrymen to work without payment...
Jeremiah 22:13

BIRTHS

CONFINO - On 26th February at home to Jayne and Daniel, a son Joshua Jess, a brother for Samuel and Hannah.

GONZALEZ DENNY - On 4th March to Helen and Toni, a beautiful baby girl, Amy Louise. First grandchild to Mrs Patricia Wheeler.

GONZALEZ DENNY - El día 4 de marzo, en hora buena a Helen y Toni por el nacimiento de vuestra niña preciosa, Amy Louise.

HOBBS - On March 3rd 1993, to Kaoru (née Matsumoto) and Michael, a son, Kohei Thomas, a brother for Hannah.

KENNARD - On March 4th to Georgina (née Ames) and Vivian, a daughter, Olivia, a sister for Lucy and Katie.

MARMENT - On March 4th, to Caroline (née Ovington) and James, a son, William, a brother for Sophie and Henry.

MARTIN - On March 4th, to Elizabeth (née Ward) and Stephen at St Thomas', a daughter, Olivia Rose Regina, a sister for Charlotte and Dicon.

PUSEY - On February 27th 1993, at Guy's Hospital to Jonathan and Helen, a daughter Quinta Amelia, a sister for Octavia and Harry.

BIRTHS

RITCHIE - On March 2nd to Claire (née Farrar) and Keith a daughter Charlotte Victoria Jane, a sister for William.

DEATHS

CHATTERTON - On March 3rd, 1993, peacefully in hospital, Robert Hunter. Beloved husband of the late Ruth. Enquiries to Tapper Funeral Service Tel: Poole (0202) 673164.

NOPS - On Thursday 25th February, Marjory passed peacefully away at Hart's Leap Nursing Home, Sandhurst, Berkshire.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

DANIELS - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Robert (Bob) Daniels CBE JP DL will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on Friday, 19th March at 3.30pm.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BEECHAM - Sir Thomas (Bart., C.H.) died 8th March 1961. May he never be forgotten.

BERRY - Neville William (Bookmaker) died 8th March 1991. My love I wish to be in your world with you than mine without you. Miss you so very much. Mum Etta.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

CRITCH - Trude. It is now more than a thousand days since you left us, but we are thankful for the many treasured memories from the eighteen thousand days that you were wife and mother to our family. Rest quietly Trude dear. We love you. John, Lesley, Jacqueline and Alexé.

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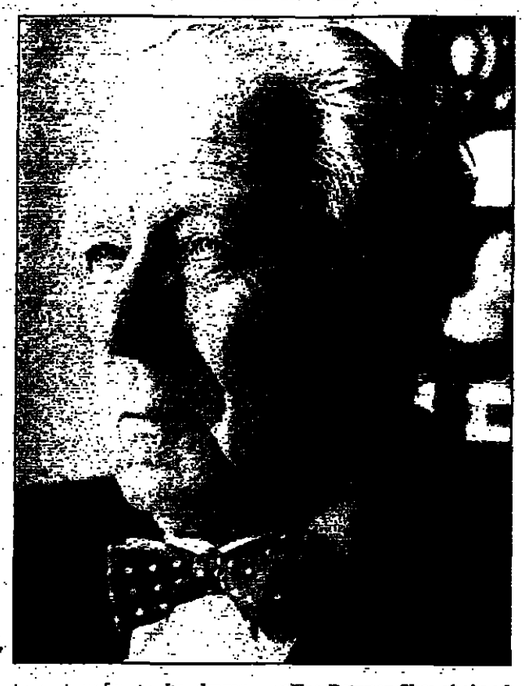
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OBITUARIES

EARL AMHERST

Earl Amherst, MC, soldier, journalist and former airline executive with British European Airways, died on March 4 aged 96. He was born in London on December 13, 1896.



FEW men can have have savoured for so long, and so enjoyably, such a range of interests and such a host of friends as did the debonair, genial and much travelled Jeffery Amherst, 5th Earl Amherst, Viscount Holmesdale and Baron Amherst of Montreal. Skilfully involved in all that he tackled, he brought to everything he did his own brand of cynical and amused detachment.

In a career of more than half a century he deployed his talents in widely differing fields of endeavour. From 1915 to 1920 he served in the Coldstream Guards. He subsequently had periods as a merchant banker, dramatic critic for the New York *Morning World*, private aircraft owner, commercial pilot, and finally executive with BEA for whom he was its representative on overseas airlines. To these careers he added his interests as a steam railway buff, theatre-goer, bon viveur and close friend of Noël Coward.

Jeffery John Archer Amherst was the eldest son of Captain the Hon Hugh Arthur Amherst and his wife Eleanor Clementina, daughter of John St Aubyn, first Lord St Levan of St Michael's Mount, Marazion, Cornwall. When his father succeeded to the earldom in 1910 Jeffery Amherst became Lord Holmesdale in a line of descent from Sir Jeffery Amherst who had been C-in-C of British Forces in North America from 1758 to 1768 and had captured Fort Ticonderoga and Montreal from the French in 1759 and 1763.

From Eton Jeffery Holmesdale went straight to Sandhurst in July 1914 and on to the Reserve Battalion of the Coldstream Guards. By the summer of 1915, at the age of 18, he was with the First Battalion at Bethune and fought in the sanguinary Battle of Loos where he was wounded and invalided home to recuperate at the family seat, "Montreal" in Kent. While there he was able to renew his delight — begun at Eton — in the theatre, which was fuelled by such shows as *The Bing Boys* with George Robey and Violet Lorraine. But he was back in France in July 1916 for the Battle of the Somme and ended the war with a Military Cross and as adjutant of the First Battalion, Coldstream Guards in Cologne.

Back at Chelsea Barracks in 1920, he again indulged his love of the theatre and came to know Ivor Novello. It was as a frequent visitor to Novello's parties in his flat above the Strand Theatre, that he first met Noël Coward, thereby forming a friendship which was to last for more than fifty years.

Peacetime soldiering in London was not to his taste. Early in 1921 he resigned his commission and with Noël Coward, sailed for New York to represent his father at the centenary celebrations of Amherst College, Massachusetts. Lionised there — and "greeted with open bottles", despite Prohibition — he moved on to New York and an apprenticeship in the financial house of Harris Forbes. But he soon decided that life as a junior salesman in Wall Street was not really his forte. Meanwhile he had become an accepted member of the Ethel Barrymore, Ruth Draper, Dorothy Parker set. Through them, an introduction to Herbert Swope, managing director of the New York *Morning World* encouraged him to leave Harris Forbes and take up journalism.

As plain "Mr Holmesdale" he began to make his mark with lively reporting from the city desk of the *Morning World*. His enthusiasm for the theatre (helped by Auriol Lee — friend of Sir Sefton Brancker, Director of Civil Aviation in London —, then playing on Broadway), brought him to the attention of the the paper's drama critic, Alexander Woolcott, and led to a transfer to its drama department, working from the Algonquin Hotel. In February 1924, fresh from his London success of *The Vortex*, Noël Coward was a frequent member of the regular Woolcott Sunday breakfast/lunch circle with Robert Brenchley, Constance Collier, Edna Ferber, Jeffery Holmesdale, the Lunts and Harpo Marx.

On the death of his father in 1927, he became the 5th Earl Amherst. It made no difference, however, to "Mr Holmesdale's" weekly drama column. But when, in 1929, Alexander Woolcott moved to *The New Yorker*, Amherst resigned from the the *Morning World* and set off to meet Noël Coward at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, with the object of celebrating Coward's 30th birthday there on December 23, 1929. During the next five months, the two of them completed an adventurous 20,000 mile journey from Tokyo to London by way of Hong Kong, China, Siam, Singapore, Ceylon and Marseilles. Between Shanghai and Hong Kong they travelled on board the cruiser HMS *Suffolk*, which gave Coward his background for the film *In Which We Serve*. At Saigon, Amherst went down with amoebic dysentery and lay near death for three weeks. In this time Coward completed his light-hearted masterpiece, *Private Lives*, and dedicated it to his friend.

Amherst returned to New York to find that the *Morning World* had closed down. Back in London, at dinner one evening with Auriol Lee and Sir Sefton Brancker, he confessed to being at a loose end. Brancker said, "Why don't you go into aviation? Learn to fly and come back and talk to me."

The advice was to change the course of Amherst's life. He gained a pilot's "A" Licence with the Household Brigade Flying Club at Heston, and bought a Blackburn Bluebird light plane. In this he flew down to Cornwall, landing on the beach at Marazion to pay a call on his grandmother at St Michael's Mount.

In October 1930 Brancker had a mission for him. It was to return to New York and, in great secrecy, to see Juan Trippe of Pan American Airways to discuss with him the possibilities of a joint Pan Am/Imperial Airways, transatlantic air service, either with airships or flying boats, to start in a year or two's time. But on his second night in New York Amherst had a call from a tearful Auriol Lee telling him that the airship R101 had crashed in France and that Brancker and Lord Thomson, the Secretary of State for Air, were among the dead. Amherst's mission had lost its *raison dètre*.

Sadly he returned to London to pursue his aviation career. At Hamble he gained a commercial pilot's licence and bought a three-seat Klemm monoplane, equipped for air-to-ground photography. Using this he sold newsreels to cinemas of sporting events such as the Derby, Ascot, and Henley Royal Regatta as well as a record-breaking run of the Great Western Railway's "Cheltenham Flyer" express.

At Christmas 1930 a present from Amherst to Coward of bound volumes of *The Illustrated London News* for 1900 and 1901 led to Coward's patriotic pageant *Cavalcade*, which opened to enthusiastic reviews at Drury Lane in September 1931, with Amherst sharing the playwright's triumph from his box on the night. A month later, he and Coward headed for South America on the second of their long journeys together. After it was over, Coward went to Hollywood and Amherst returned to England to join the firm Air Commerce at Heston as a charter pilot.

For the next eight years he was part of the small, dedicated circle of civil aviation people — a camaraderie initially centred on Heston, Lympne, Shoreham and Ryde, IoW. Air Commerce eventually developed into the Great Western and Southern Air Lines group. Amherst was able to combine flying with the duties of manager, first of Shoreham Airport and then of Speke Airport, Liverpool.

When the second world war came, he was recalled into the Coldstream Guards and served in Cairo as personal assistant to General Arthur Smith, Chief of Staff to General Wavell, C-in-C Middle East. In 1941 he was loaned to the RAF, as an honorary wing commander, for liaison work with Greek and Yugoslav contingents. Subsequently he was on the staff of Air Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder before coming home to SHAEF headquarters in Bushey Park.

With the end of the war, the threads of prewar domestic air transport under Railway Air Services, were picked up and British European Airways was formed under Sir Harold Hartley as chairman, and Gerard d'Erlanger as managing director. After them, BEA's first two employees were Lord Amherst and John Brancker, son of Sir Sefton Brancker.

Thus began the last stage of Amherst's career — twenty more years of vigorous service as external affairs director of BEA, and as the airline's representative on the boards of Air Lingus and of Cyprus, Gibraltar and Malta Airways. By the time that he retired — reluctantly — at 70 in 1966, Amherst had carved out for himself a unique place in BEA and in European air transport in general.

For most of the next two decades he relished what he called his years of "wandering abroad" — visiting his sister Molly in Australia, his brother Humphrey in Rhodesia, Amherst College, his old friend Cole Porter in San Francisco and the kaleidoscopic array of delightful characters who had enlivened his years. As the concluding words of an idiosyncratic book of reminiscences in 1976, Lord Amherst wrote, modestly: "To be the object of affection and, in return, to have affection for others, is surely the best happiness that life has to offer. I have had my share."

Amherst was unmarried; with his death the titles become extinct.

SIR MICHAEL EASTHAM

Sir (Thomas) Michael Eastham, Judge of the Family Division of the High Court of Justice for the last 14 years, died on March 4 aged 72. He was born on June 28, 1920.

SIR Michael Eastham was an early example of a new breed of English High Court judge. Socially unstuffy and gregarious, he was, at the same time, entirely judicial and judicious in the courtroom.

It is the destiny of Family Court judges that their work goes largely publicly unsung, if only because so many of their cases dealing with the custody and care of children are necessarily dealt with in Chambers, out of public sight. But, occasionally, circumstances thrust them on to the public stage and, in December 1983 at Manchester Crown Court, Eastham hit the headlines.

It fell to him to deal with the National Graphical Association for unlawful picketing of the printing works of the *Stockport Messenger* at Warrington, owned by Eddie Shah, the first newspaper publisher to take on the print unions.

The union had drummed up 500 protesters to stand outside the printing works for what it called "a peaceful demonstration". Eastham commented: "I have never known a case where you need to board windows and have security guards to guard against a peaceable demonstration." For breach of an injunction which the judge had earlier granted to Shah, the union was fined £150,000.

The events of the second occasion of unlawful picketing involved as many as 4,000 people gathered outside the works, and would have stopped the company's business had the police not called in reinforcements, all of which was witnessed nationwide on television. Eastham said that the public rightly found the behaviour "shocking and horrifying", for which a fine of £375,000 was imposed. He said he derived no pleasure from imposing the fines "because a great many of the union's members were responsible law-abiding people. But their funds were placed in jeopardy because the union was in breach of the law." Commentators on this delicate politico-legal tussle regarded Eastham's judgment as fair but firm.

Eastham was the youngest son of a remarkable figure in the law courts of the immediate postwar years, Sir Tom Eastham, the senior Official Referee, who dealt with cases exclusively arising out of building contracts. Some of his eccentricities rubbed off on his son which may account for Michael Eastham's delayed appointment to the bench.

He was eventually appointed to the High Court at the age of 58 in 1978 by a Labour Lord Chancellor (itself not without significance, since Eastham privately exhibited a leaning to the political left). This was an advanced age for preferment even in those days of appointments later in a legal career. His appointment to a division of the High Court, where he had made only occasional appearances, was a surprise. But he never sought — as some of his contemporaries have — a move to a more natural habitat in the Queen's Bench Division.

That he remained in the Family Division was to the lasting benefit to the fathers, mothers and children who came before him. He combined the right mixture of human understanding, flexible application of the law and sensitive handling of the disputants. No one could have come away from his court without feeling that he had listened attentively to everything that had been said, nor could they ever have been in doubt about where the judge stood on any issue.

Liked and respected by his colleagues — both at the bar and on the bench — Eastham exhibited a sharp mind to the advocates who appeared before him, often appearing to be at least one step ahead of their arguments. He had a particular habit, while listening to them, of pushing his spectacles onto his forehead — a sure signal that the point they were pressing was not



being altogether favourably received.

At the bar he had been a curiously diffident advocate for someone with such an acute intellect and an obvious taste for the adversarial style of forensic work. His practice at the bar reflected the daily fare of the English common lawyer: commercial law, landlord and tenant, a spot of crime and divorce.

Eastham served in the army from 1940 to 1946, latterly as a captain in the Queen's Royal Regiment. His university career straddled the war — he read law at Trinity Hall, Cambridge — and, in 1947, he was called to the bar by Lincoln's Inn (his father's Inn of Court), of which he became a bencher in 1972. He took silk in 1964, was the Recorder of Deal from 1968 to 1971 and a Crown Court Recorder from 1972 to 1978. He held the much sought-after recordership of Cambridge during the last year before the abolition of the Assizes and Quarter Sessions under the Court's Act 1971.

He leaves a widow, Mary, and two daughters. Another daughter died.

JACK FROGGATT

Jack Froggatt, Portsmouth and England footballer, died on February 17 aged 71. He was born in Leicester on November 17, 1922.



JACK FROGGATT was a key member of the Portsmouth side which won successive first division titles in 1948-49 and 1949-50 and reached the FA cup semi-final also in 1950.

Powerfully built with a trademark shock of straw blond hair, the barrel-chested Froggatt began his career at centre-forward. But by the time Bob Jackson had succeeded Jack Tinn as manager at Fratton Park and assembled the side which was to sweep all before it in 1948-49, Froggatt had been switched to outside-left to find the space to exploit his power and pace and to give Pompey an awesome attack with the flying Peter Harris on the other flank.

Indeed it was his versatility as much as anything that enabled Jack Froggatt to carve a special place in England's, as well as Portsmouth's, annals. For, after the second league championship had been claimed — Froggatt weighing in with 15 goals — the gradual reconstruction of the side began. One of the first to go was the rock-like centre-half and captain, Reg Flewin, who was one of the older members of the championship team. Jackson, Portsmouth's manager, answered this problem by switching Froggatt to centre-half and giving a Belgian-born player, Marcel Gaillard, the number 11 shirt.

Froggatt thrived in the new job and Portsmouth had a half-back line of Scoular, Froggatt and Dickinson which is still remembered as the best to have worn their royal blue.

By that time poacher-turned-keeper Froggatt had been twice capped by England at outside-left but, in the age of Finney, opportunities there were strictly limited. Yet such was the quality of Froggatt that the bulk of his 13 caps were won at centre-half where he had familiar company alongside him — fellow Pompey player Dickinson. Meanwhile the third member of the Portsmouth half-back trio, Scoular, also earned international honours playing for Scotland.

Underlining his remarkable versatility, Froggatt at one time played in his two diverse roles in successive internationals — at centre-half against Belgium in November 1952, then at outside-left against Scotland five months later.

Froggatt's last appearance for England was as an outside-left against the United States in New York in June 1953, and by then his cousin, Redfern, of Sheffield Wednesday, was at inside-left and the familiar Dickinson was at left-half.

Although born in Sheffield, Froggatt moved to Portsmouth as a boy with his family and it was while playing service football during the war that he first caught the eye of the Portsmouth manager, Jack Tinn.

He was not to spend his entire career with Pompey. The masterful half-back line began to disintegrate when Scoular moved to Newcastle. Froggatt moved to Leicester City in 1954 having made 279 first division appearances for Portsmouth scoring 65 goals.

After six years with Leicester he spent a brief spell as player-manager with Kettering in the southern league before retiring in 1963 and returning to Portsmouth. There for some years he ran a pub almost within the shadow of Fratton Park's floodlights.

Jack Froggatt is survived by his wife, three sons and a daughter.

ART HODES

Art Hodes, jazz pianist, broadcaster and author, died in Chicago on March 4 aged 88. He was born in the Ukraine, on November 14, 1904.

"A LOT of critics say there's no way a white man can play the blues," wrote trombonist Clyde Bernhardt. "I know they're wrong. Guys like Art Hodes play more blues than many black guys can." Art Hodes was one of the most prolific and influential pianists in jazz, and his rolling blues piano style was a vital ingredient in many small groups led by Sidney Bechet and Wingy Manone. He also led his own bands, notably for recordings for Blue Note in the 1940s, and he worked often as a soloist. In addition, Hodes was a vociferous champion of jazz, broadcasting regularly on New York's WNYC in the 1940s and hosting a television show, *Jazz Alley, in Chicago during the* 1960s. He founded his own record label in 1946, "Jazz Record", and brought out 60 issues of a magazine under the same title between 1943 and 1947. "We saw to it jazzmen had a voice," he wrote, republishing the pick of his articles as *Selections from the Gutter* in 1977.

Arthur W. Hodes moved with his family from Russia to New York when he was six months old, and later moved to Chicago. There he had music lessons at Hull House settlement and first performed at the Rainbow Gardens. At the age of 22, he met Louis Armstrong, who took him to a shack on State Street where he heard many of the pioneer blues pianists who influenced his style. After playing with Manone in Chicago, Hodes came to New York in the late 1930s. He played with several leaders before forming his own band in 1941.

During 1944 *Metronome* printed a series of vituperative articles about Hodes, describing his discs as "an amateur band entertaining in an air-raid shelter." Hodes sued for defamation and won. In the aftermath he acted as a musical catalyst, persuading the New Orleans clarinetist Albert Nicholas to give up his job as a subway guard and join the band that replaced Bunk Johnson's at the Stuyvesant Casino in 1945. He also formed a series of bands for record dates with his Chicagoan colleague, trumpeter Max Kaminsky. After a series of club residencies at Jimmy Ryan's and the Hickory House, he and Pee Wee Russell formed their "Backroom" club in 1949, before Hodes moved back to Chicago.

In the 1950s he taught at Park Forest Conservatory, led a band at Jazz Ltd in Chicago and began a schedule of national and international touring that he kept up, despite failing health, until the spring of 1992, when he suffered a stroke. He came to Britain several times, touring in the late 1980s with Wild Bill Davison. In 1992 he published his autobiography *Hot Man* (co-written with Chadwick Hansen), and he heard a few days before his death of its nomination for an American Association for Recorded Sound Collections award.

André Guillot

ANDRÉ Guillot, a renovator of French cuisine and one of the great chefs of the century, has died aged 85. He was best known for his two-star restaurant, L'Auberge du Vieux Marly, at Marly-le-Roi, near Paris, which he opened in 1952, and for two books on cooking he wrote after he retired in the early 1970s, *La Grande Cuisine Bourgeoise* and *La Vraie Cuisine Légère*.

The first chef to modernize French cuisine and break from the norms set at the turn of the century by the legendary Auguste Escoffier, Guillot began his career as a 16-year-old apprentice in embassy kitchens in Paris and Rome.

He later worked as a chef for wealthy bourgeois families, including the bon vivant millionaire author Raymond Roussel, who used to have his fresh fruit and vegetables driven from the Côte d'Azur to Paris by Rolls-Royce.

Guillot's innovations anticipated much that is now associated with modern French cuisine: game was one of his specialities and food flambéed in front of patrons a particular dislike. "Whatever you flambée in front of a customer is nothing but show," he wrote. "Food must be flambéed at the start, not at the end — it must be done in the secret of the kitchen."

PERSONAL COLUMN

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VAUDEVILLE THEATRE

"NURSE CAVELL"

By C.E. BECHHOFER ROBERTS and C.S. FORESTER

Whoever is led by its title to fear that this play is an excuse for the sentimentality which was once attached to the name of Nurse Cavell may be reassured. The authors are not pleading a cause or inviting patriotic indignation. Instead, they are content to re-tell without perceptible bias a story which, stripped of all the passions formerly attached to it by circumstance, is naturally enthralling, a story of events swiftly moving, of wills and ideals inevitably opposed, above all of a character bold, resolute, single-minded, but not exempt from criticism. The outcome is a narrative refreshingly vigorous and direct which, by avoiding every temptation to falseness, holds its audience continuously and with reason.

There are passages in it here and there which might with advantage be toned down, but none of them affects the persons essential to the drama. Mr. Victor Stanley's English soldier is too stridently a Cockney humorist, and an unimportant German officer errs on the side of frivolous caricature. They may not be impossible, but they appear to be theatrically forced, and so break the even texture of the play. But to the dramatists' treatment of the central anecdote, and even of the minor characters concerned in it, no objection of this kind can be taken. All the lesser parts are well shaped and carefully performed—the nurses by Miss Juliet Mansel and Miss Doris Hilditch, a wounded German by Mr Frank Birch, an English chaplain played with excellent simplicity by Mr Casson, a pair of diplomats, English and Spanish, and a high German officer who, represented by Mr Ian Fleming, Mr Frank Arundal, and Mr Henry Victor, contend, on the night preceding Nurse Cavell's death, with intense passion and official restraint.

Against this background Miss Nancy Price, in a performance conspicuous in its moderation and its rigid care for truth, unfolds the tale of Nurse Cavell. It is difficult to believe that any woman with her responsibility was as incautious and, in that sense, as dangerous to her helpers as Nurse Cavell is here represented as having been; but the dramatists gain acceptance for this view of her and, indeed, greatly enrich their portrait by exhibiting in her this streak of stubborn and personally courageous rashness. Two of her helpers are vividly drawn by Mr Guy le Feuvre and Miss Esmé Church; there is an admirable sketch of a boy by Mr Tester; and Mr Robert Speaight, as the disguised German by whom Nurse Cavell was trapped, lifts to crisis the scene in which he appears.

The trial is recounted with swift economy. The German point of view is not obscured. Nor, in the final scene, do the dramatists shirk Nurse Cavell's admission that, according to the German conception of their law and jurisdiction, her trial was not unjust. That their jurisdiction was invalid is open to argument; that her condemnation was wildly inexpedient is open to no argument at all.

ON THIS DAY

March 8 1934



Edith Cavell (1865-1915), matron in charge of a Belgian clinic in the first world war, helped Allied fugitives to escape. She was said to have admitted receiving letters from men she had aided, was tried by a German court-martial, found guilty and sentenced to death.

NEWS

Major faces defeat on Maastricht

■ A defiant "no surrender" message yesterday from the Conservative Eurorebels has left the government struggling to avoid a defeat today that could force a further big delay over ratification of the Maastricht Treaty.

After a weekend of intense pressure from the prime minister and his cabinet colleagues, including warnings that the legislative programme was in jeopardy, Tory Eurosceptics vowed last night to continue their fight.....Page 1

Historic buildings exposed to fire risk

■ Hundreds of government and historic buildings, housing thousands of people are exposed to unnecessary fire risks, a *Times* enquiry reveals today. Fire experts describe their safety measures as "lamentable" and label the government "the worst fire safety manager in the country".....Page 1

EC hastens peace

As European Community foreign ministers meet in Brussels today to discuss ways to end the Bosnian war, UN aid officials on the ground are focusing the relief effort supplying the Muslim enclave of Sbrenica..... Pages 1, 8

Child benefit tax

Ministers are considering taxing child benefit as they look at long-term spending trends. Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, disclosed.....Page 1

Ministers divided

Differing views over the causes of Britain's rising crime rate surfaced as two senior ministers gave conflicting accounts of the impact of social conditions on law-breaking.....Page 2

Thousands call in

Thousands of former patients of a gynaecologist who is seriously ill after being diagnosed HIV-positive telephoned hospital helplines at the rate of a hundred an hour yesterday.....Page 3

Police injured

Four police officers were badly injured in Northern Ireland yesterday when the IRA again took its terrorist campaign to the Protestant heartland and detonated a car bomb in the co. Down resort town of Bangor.....Page 3

Beleaguered Yeltsin

President Yeltsin, facing the toughest challenge yet to his rule from hardline opponents, called at the weekend for a compromise to resolve his stalemate with the Russian parliament. Mr Yeltsin said that he favoured a reconciliation.....Page 10

Wave of hostility

Arabs and Muslims across the United States said yesterday that they faced growing hostility after the arrest of two Muslim men in connection with the bombing of the World Trade Centre.....Page 11

Big Brother

Barely a step can be taken in Britain's city centres today without blameless shoppers or the occasional villain being spotted by Big Brother's electronic eyes, the omnipresent security video cameras.....Page 5

Birt tax enquiry

The tax affairs of John Birt, the director-general of the BBC, took a new turn last night when the chairman of the Treasury select committee called for an Inland Revenue investigation.....Page 4

Young drinkers

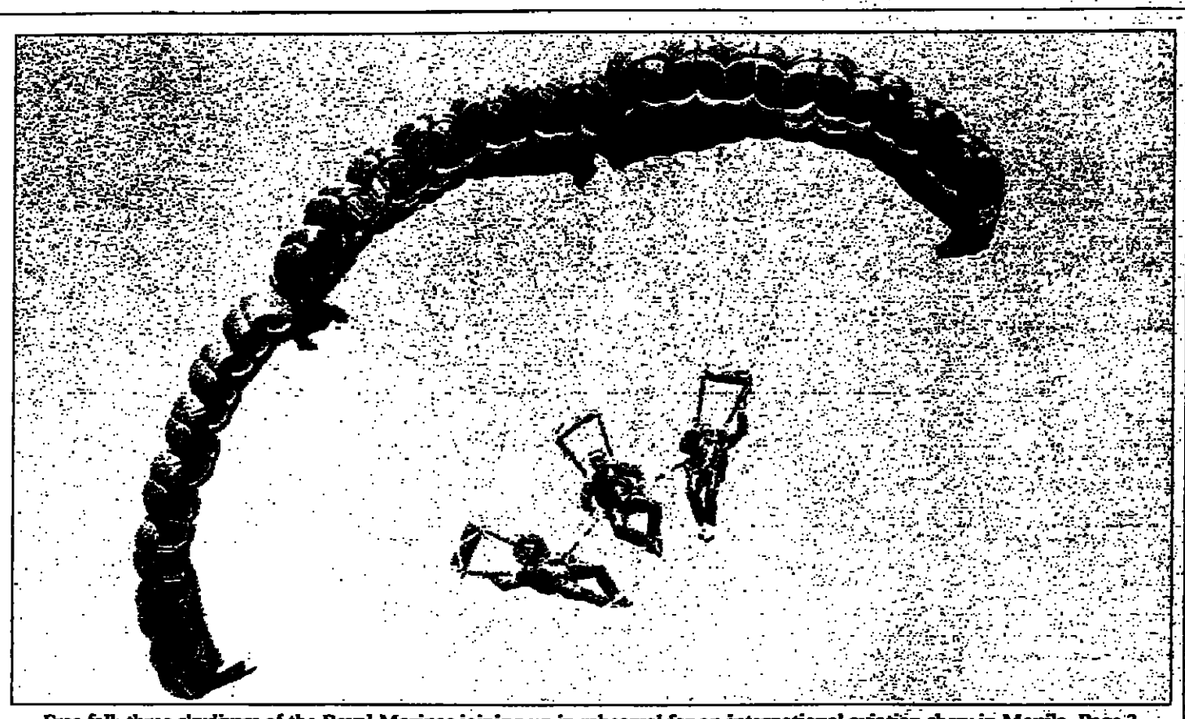
Primary school children as young as nine regularly drink alcohol, according to unpublished university research.....Page 5

British myths

All societies are caught up in the myths and realities of their past. Britain more than most. Much of our deep despondency and division today can only be properly understood — and properly addressed — if we come to grips with how this nation emerged over time.....Page 6

Vanity of a cult 'messiah'

■ The siege of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, which has entered its second week, began as a bloody but straightforward shoot-out and has evolved into a subtle game of psychological thrust and counter-thrust, with the cult members on one side, the federal authorities on the other, and the media somewhere in the middle.....Page 11



Free fall: three skydivers of the Royal Marines joining up in rehearsal for an international aviation show in Manila. Page 3

BUSINESS

Pay slowing: Pay settlements are running at their lowest since 1980, according to the CBI. In the three months to end January pay awards in both manufacturing and services were both running at below 3 per cent for the first time.....Page 36

Holiday battle: Thomas Cook, the travel agent, confirmed yesterday it was in negotiation with Owners Abroad, the tour operator trying to fight off a £300 million bid from Airtours, its rival.....Page 36

Glaxo warned: Britain largest pharmaceutical company says it has been warned by the US Food and Drug Administration over the marketing of Zantac, its hugely successful anti-ulcer drug. Page 36

Athletics: Ben Johnson, suspended by the International Amateur Athletic Federation for a second drugs offence in five years, will not appeal against his life ban from competition. He said the cost and family obligations ruled it out.....Page 19

Rugby: Craig Chalmers, Scotland's stand-off half who was injured in the five nations' championship defeat by England at Twickenham, is out of the British Lions' tour to New Zealand in May.....Page 19

Rugby League: A hastily assembled Great Britain side compiled a record 48-6 win against France in Carcassonne yesterday. Captain Garry Schofield scored three tries.....Page 25

Taking responsibility: Teachers may like it when disruptive pupils are absent, but they should now make truancy and delinquency their concern.....Page 31

Standard English: David Pascall, chairman of the National Curriculum Council, responds to Brian Cox's attack on the council's philosophy.....Page 31

Psychological harm? Another milestone on the long haul for women's rights in America has been reached. Last week the Supreme Court agreed to look afresh at what defines sexual harassment in the workplace.....Page 13

Old favourite: In Victorian times, Donizetti's opera *La Favorite* was one of the composer's most popular works. Welsh National Opera has premiered a new production that leaves much to be desired as far as the singing goes.....Page 27

Strictly for children: Alan Ayckbourn has written a new play for the under-12s, but Benedict Nightingale, who is considerably older than 12, has his doubts about *Mr A's Amazing Maze Plays*, now on at the National Theatre.....Page 28

Art in Berlin: The city presents two key exhibitions: one celebrating Henry van de Velde, the other reveals an impressive array of talent in China today.....Page 29

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Nayim scored a hat-trick as Spurs beat Manchester City 4-2 in the FA Cup quarter-final at Maine Road yesterday Page 19



Annita Keating and Carolyn Hewson, the wives of Australia's rival political leaders, are promoting a female role in an election here Page 11



Richard Nixon has entered the debate on the side of sending aid to Moscow. He reflects a view that the West missed an opportunity in 1991 Page 10

Anthem for Wilfrid Owen

■ This month sees the centenary of the birth of Wilfrid Owen, the first world war poet whose reputation is higher than ever. But what would have become of him had he not died one week before the armistice was signed?

Trying rape cases

■ Should rape cases be tried only by women judges? How should the courts deal with rapists under 14? Judge Myrella Cohen gives her verdict.

Persistent puffers under siege

■ Are the sort of people who smoke really the sort who will respond to a National No Smoking Day? Ann Kent looks at the psychology of the smoker.

Troubled times: The lives of three couples are charted in the thriller *A Statement of Affairs* (ITV, 9pm). The cast includes Frances Barber, Adrian Dunbar and David Threlfall.....Page 35

Fire! Fire!

The system of fire safety regulation in Crown properties is radically different to that applied to other sites ... Where there ought to be uniformity of standards, there is instead a mess of potentially lethal anomalies.....Page 15

Illusions of unity

If Mr Major believes that the Eurosceptics are simply cussed and that the arguments for ratification are unanswerable, he should put them to the voters at large.....Page 15

The Other Germans...

Helmut Kohl will be remembered in history as the chancellor who united the two German states. To dodge the question of who is, or is not, a German detracts from that achievement.....Page 15

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The royal family is in the process of separating itself from the Princess of Wales ... it needs handling with the utmost care, and with visible affection for the princess. Anything which suggested the royal family were closing ranks against the Princess of Wales would be damaging to the royal family.....Page 14

PETER RIDDELL

Rarely has a chancellor been so pilloried. Mr Lamont has become a political non-person, deserted by most of the Tory press and hardly mentioned at the Tories' central council in Harrogate. His case looks hopeless.....Page 14

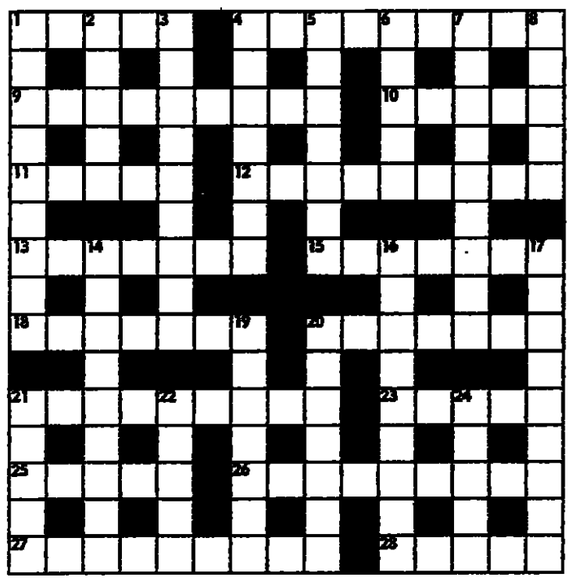
MATTHEW PARRIS

How often we are convinced we remember something quite distinct: a time when, *at* the time, the significance was clear — and yet when we search the record we can find no reference by anyone to what we seem to remember as the big story of the day.....Page 14

A satirical look at the Robert Ryman caption-free exhibition at the Tate Gallery.....Page 15

Individuals and, when they are involved, states must be held accountable for their concrete criminal acts
The Washington Post

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,172



ACROSS

1 "Fair Greece! sad _____ of departed worth!" (Byron) (5).
4 Plant produces drug satisfactorily (9).
9 The Cork coach could be a crawler (9).
10 Really good to the German assistant (5).
11 The fight to get started (3-2).
12 Mild impatience produced by a certain note (9).
13 The entertainer rates it differently (7).
15 Rob's ambition — to hold the record (7).
18 Boxes with some hesitation as comparatively thin (7).
20 In the prescribed course, decline pasta (7).
21 Sites laid out for those seeking perfection (9).
23 Private hotel bearing the royal insignia (5).
25 Protest when not wholly sober (5).
26 27, holding on, is struggling (9).
27 As may be seen, the bouquet is not pristine (9).
28 Deal with heartless sailing man and scoff (5).

DOWN

1 Strain over a writer's transport (9).
2 Given a little publicity, as is proper (5).
3 Work one's to mount in a frame of hearts and flowers (9).
4 Strange tale set in the USA (7).
5 Got up late (7).
6 Cover many a crop (5).
7 The conclusion about the auditor is "charming" (9).
8 Liberal spirit once honoured in the home say sent up (5).
14 Worker and master set at variance (9).
16 He doesn't think much of future prospects (9).
17 Regard flashing as a bloomer (9).
19 In the pink, mourned at start of event (7).
20 Squander pounds on a call (4,3).
21 It's great water for commercial business when it's tax-free! (5).
22 Oddly enough, some think this a peerless ground (5).
24 Report causing an uproar (5).

Concise Crossword, page 36

PARKER DUOFOLD

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,171 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

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Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc's,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereffd & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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WEATHER

Much of England and Wales will be dry today, but there may be drizzle near eastern and southeastern coasts. It will be cloudy, but should brighten up in places, especially over Wales and northwest England. Rain over northwest Scotland will edge into Northern Ireland during the day, becoming increasingly light and patchy. The northern isles and northwest Scotland will become drier later. Outlook: dry, settled, cloudy and quite mild.

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; lg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	13	55	s	Madrid	13	55	s
Alicante	15	59	s	Majorca	16	61	s
Alex'dria	16	61	f	Malaga	16	61	s
Algiers	17	63	s	Malta	13	55	f
Amst'dm	6	43	c	Melb'rne	21	70	f
Athens	8	46	s	Mexico C*	19	66	s
Bahrain	26	79	c	Miami*	23	73	s
Bangkok	32	90	f	Milan	9	48	s
Barbados*	29	84	f	Montreal*	-6	21	c
Barcelna	13	55	s	Moscow	-4	25	f
Beirut	15	59	r	Munich	3	37	c
Belgrade	0	32	s	Nairobi	-	-	-
Berlin	6	43	f	Naples	12	54	f
Bermuda*	22	72	f	N Delhi	25	77	s
Biarritz	10	50	s	N York*	2	36	f
Borde'x	12	54	s	Nice	14	57	s
Brussels	5	41	c	Oslo	1	37	s
Budapst	3	37	f	Paris	7	45	c
B Aires*	25	77	f	Peking	8	46	f
Cairo	19	66	s	Perth (aus)	25	77	c
Cape Tn	27	81	c	Prague	2	36	c
Chicago*	8	46	s	Reykjavik	-3	27	c
Ch'church	14	57	c	Rhodes	10	50	f
Cologne	5	41	c	Rio de J	32	90	s
C'phagn	4	39	s	Rio de J	32	90	s
Corfu	9	48	s	Riyadh	32	90	s
Dublin	7	45	c	Rome	12	54	s
Dubrovnik	10	50	s	Salzburg	1	34	sn
Faro	14	57	f	S F'risco*	17	63	s
Florence	11	52	s	Santiago*	21	70	s
Frankfurt	8	46	c	S Paulo*	30	86	c
Funchal	18	64	f	Seoul	7	45	c
Geneva	9	48	s	Stckholm	-1	30	c
Gibraltar	14	57	f	Strasb'rg	6	43	f
Helsinki	-2	28	sn	Sydney	24	75	f
Hong K	23	73	s	Tangier	14	57	f
Innsbruck	1	34	sn	Tel Aviv	16	61	f
Istanbul	1	34	f	Tenerife	20	68	s
Jeddah	33	91	s	Tokyo	16	61	c
Jo'burg*	25	77	f	Toronto*	1	34	c
Karachi	-	-	-	Tunis	14	57	f
L Palmas	19	66	f	Valencia	16	64	s
Le Touquet	6	46	c	Vanc'ver*	13	55	r
Lisbon	10	50	f	Venice	8	46	s
Locarno	18	64	s	Vienna	3	37	c
London	8	46	c	Warsaw	-2	28	c
L Angels*	25	77	s	Wash'ton*	7	45	c
Luxembg	5	41	c	Wel'ton	15	59	c
Luxor	24	75	f	Zurich	4	39	c

* denotes figures are latest available

Yesterday: Temp: max 8am to 6pm, 10C (50F); min 6pm to 6am, 7C (45F). Humidity 6pm, 53 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.2hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6pm, 1,022.9 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

Saturday: Highest day temp: Leeds 14C (57F), lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, 5C (41F), highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland, 0.12in; highest sunshine: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 9.1hr.

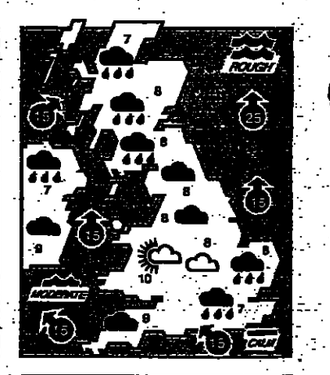
Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 7C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 4C (39F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 7C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 4C (39F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 5.8hr.

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aggieway	-	-	7	45	cloudy
Aviemore	8.2	-	12	54	sunny
Belfast	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Birmingham	-	-	7	45	cloudy
Bognor Regis	-	-	11	52	dull
Bournemouth	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Bristol	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Buxton	1.3	-	5	41	cloudy
Cardiff	-	-	8	46	cloudy
Clacton	1.8	-	11	52	cloudy
Douglas	-	-	10	50	cloudy
Edinburgh	8.5	-	12	54	sunny
Eskdalemuir	9.1	-	11	52	sunny
Exmouth	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Falmouth	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Folkestone	2.1	-	12	54	cloudy
Glasgow	7.4	-	11	52	sunny
Hastings	0.1	-	11	52	cloudy
Hunstanton	4.3	0.01	7	45	sunny
Jersey	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Kinloss	7.8	-	12	54	sunny
Leeds	7.6	-	14	57	sunny
Lerwick	0.7	0.02	8	46	drizzle
Littlehampton	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Liverpool	-	-	7	45	dull
London	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Lowestoft	0.8	0.01	9	48	cloudy
Manchester	-	-	7	45	dull
Minehead	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Morecambe	5.1	-	9	48	sunny
Newcastle	7.3	-	13	55	sunny
Newquay	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Nottingham	4.1	-	11	52	sunny
Penzance	-	-	10	50	cloudy
Plymouth	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Poole	-	-	10	50	cloudy
Prestwick	1.4	-	9	48	bright
Sandown	-	-	10	50	cloudy
Seaton Snd	-	-	7	45	cloudy
Scarborough	3.3	-	8	46	sunny
Scilly Isles	-	-	10	50	dull
Shanklin	-	-	10	50	cloudy
Southend	1.6	0.01	12	54	cloudy
Southsea	-	-	10	50	cloudy
Stornoway	1.2	0.01	9	48	drizzle
Teignmouth	-	-	9	48	dull
Tenby	-	-	8	46	cloudy
Tiree	1.6	0.05	8	46	drizzle
Torquay	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Weymouth	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Wick	5.7	0.01	10	50	sunny
Wordsling	-	-	10	50	cloudy

* denotes Not Available
These are Saturday's figures





London 5.53 pm to 6.31 am
Bristol 6.03 pm to 6.40 am
Edinburgh 5.02 pm to 6.47 am
Manchester 6.00 pm to 6.41 am
Penzance 6.16 pm to 6.51 am

Sun rises: 6.31 am
Sun sets: 5.53 pm
Moon sets: 6.00 am
Moon rises: 6.34 pm
Full Moon 9.46am

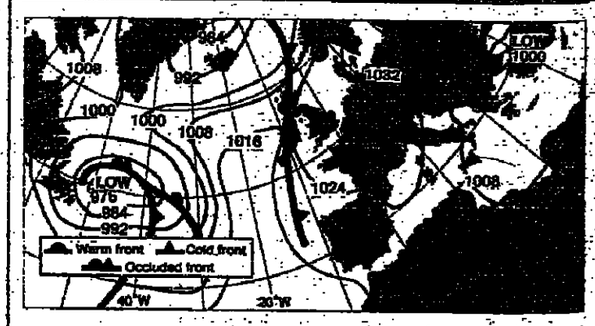
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	6	43	c	Guernsey	9	48	c
B'mingham	7	46	c	Inverness	9	48	s
Blackpool	6	43	c	Jersey	9	48	c
Bristol	9	48	c	London	8	46	c
Cardiff	8	46	c	M'chester	6	47	c
Edinburgh	6	43	c	Newcastle	6	43	c
Glasgow	6	43	d	R'nidsway	7	45	c

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1.23	7.2	1.51	7.5	Liverpool	11.01	9.9	11.25	9.9
Aberdeen	12.53	4.3	1.02	4.5	Lowestoft	9.20	2.4	9.20	2.5
Avonmouth	7.00	13.8	7.28	14.0	Margate	—	—	Noon	4.9
Belfast	10.44	3.7	11.16	3.4	Milford Haven	5.58	7.4	6.21	7.4
Cardiff	6.45	12.7	7.13	12.9	Newquay	4.47	7.4	5.11	7.4
Devonport	5.35	5.7	6.02	6.6	Oban	5.31	4.2	5.55	4.1
Dover	10.42	6.7	11.09	6.9	Penzance	4.32	5.8	4.57	5.7
Falmouth	5.05	5.5	5.32	5.4	Portland	6.35	2.3	7.06	2.2
Glasgow	12.40	4.6	12.42	4.9	Portsmouth	11.06	4.9	11.35	5.1
Harwich	11.46	4.0	—	—	Shoreham	10.55	6.5	11.25	6.7
Holyhead	9.57	6.0	10.23	5.8	Southampton	10.32	4.6	—	—
Hull	6.04	7.6	6.10	7.9	Swansea	6.05	10.2	6.28	10.2
Ilfracombe	5.48	9.6	6.06	9.7	Tees	3.24	5.5	3.35	5.7
King's Lynn	6.23	6.7	6.26	7.1	Wilton-on-Ree	11.27	4.3	11.53	4.5
Leith	2.13	5.7	2.29	5.9					

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.15	1.95
Austria Sch	17.80	16.40
Belgium Fr	52.65	48.25
Canada $	1.925	1.765
Denmark Kr	9.88	9.06
Finland Mrk	9.29	8.52
France Fr	8.66	7.96
Germany Dm	2.55	2.35
Greece Dr	344.00	319.00
Hong Kong $	11.87	10.87
Ireland Pt	1.04	0.96
Italy Lira	2385.00	2220.00
Japan Yen	188.00	169.00
Netherlands Gld	2.87	2.64
Norway Kr	10.80	10.00
Portugal Esc	233.25	215.25
Spain Pta	177.50	164.50
Sweden Kr	11.79	10.99
Switzerland Fr	2.38	2.18
Turkey Lira	14200.0	13200.0
USA $	1.54	1.415

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading Friday.



Information supplied by Met Office

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Dirk Bogarde's novel comes to television



BUSINESS 32-36
UK firm's designs on a young market in Japan

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THE TIMES 2

MONDAY MARCH 8 1993

IAN STEWART



Sliding into the semi-finals: Nayim, right, beats Hill to score the second of his three goals for Tottenham against Manchester City at Maine Road yesterday

Pitch invasion sours Tottenham's victory

Manchester City 2
Tottenham Hotspur 4

BY IAN ROSS

AMID disgraceful scenes of crowd unrest that English football thought had been consigned to a dark if not distant past, Tottenham Hotspur swept into the FA Cup semi-finals with an imperious performance at Maine Road yesterday that deserved a more respectful audience.

As Tottenham cast the final rites on Manchester City's season of frustrating inconsistency, about 300 City supporters broke through the fragile ring of security around the pitch.

Having forced Ray Lewis, the referee, to usher the teams to the dressing-rooms, the supporters moved menacingly towards the 7,500 Tottenham supporters in the north stand. Only the swift actions of police, on foot and on horseback and with dogs, prevented the situation descending into confrontation.

Twelve minutes elapsed before the return of order and the teams. The Football Association is likely to hold an enquiry. The most serious outbreak of crowd trouble inside a ground this season came at Southend in January, when seven police officers were hurt and 20 arrests made after a third-round tie involving Millwall.

Rick Parry, the chief executive of the Premier League who was at Maine Road, said: "To say what we witnessed here today was unfortunate would be something of a major understatement. For something like this to occur at what is one of our major football stadia at a time when we were all reasonably confident and hopeful that everyone connected with the sport was working together to help improve its image, is quite dreadful.

"I suppose it just shows that no matter how much progress has been made, we do still have quite a long way to go."

Tottenham have demanded much of the FA Cup in recent years and it seems their progress this year will again provide comfort. Drawn to play Arsenal, who they beat in the semi-finals at Wembley two years ago on their way victory over Nottingham Forest in the final, in the last four on April 4, Tottenham and their London rivals were installed as joint favourites for the Cup last night.

FA CUP

Semi-final draw
Arsenal v Tottenham Hotspur
Derby County or Sheffield Wednesday v Blackburn Rovers or Sheffield United
Ties to played on Sunday, April 4

In the other semi-final, Sheffield Wednesday, who play Derby County at the Baseball Ground tonight, will meet the winners of the replay between Sheffield United and Blackburn Rovers.

If the task facing Tottenham yesterday was, on paper at least, unenviable, the result could not be said to constitute a surprise. It was Tottenham's third win at Maine Road this season, having already succeeded in the Premier League and Coca-Cola Cup.

When the clubs last met in the FA Cup, at Wembley in a replay of the 1981 final, Tottenham's triumph was sustained by the artistry of Ardiles and Villa, the Argentinian internationals. The platform for yesterday's marvellous performance was again provided by imported talent, Nayim, the Moroccan-born Spanish under-21 international.

Once the timidity and caution that often characterise cup-ties had been replaced by a tangible sense of adventure midway through the first half, the match began to blossom.

City started well, Sheron heading them in front after 11 minutes, but their distribution was poor. Simpson and Flitcroft enjoyed plenty of possession but their attempts to provide White and Holden with a reasonable service on the wings failed.

If City are denied width and room in which to manoeuvre, their level of effectiveness is dramatically reduced. This was just such an occasion.

Having established control of midfield Tottenham deservedly levelled in the 25th minute, when Nayim's low drive from outside the penalty area deceived Coton.

Had City survived until half-time without suffering further damage the outcome might have been different. But they did not, and once Sedgley's fine drive from an acute angle had found its way in after 44 minutes, the argument was over.

Any prospect of a recovery ended four minutes into the second half, when Nayim made another telling contribution by scrambling in a low shot at the second attempt after Sheringham's drive had hit a post. Nayim completed his hat-trick in the 86th minute, when he swept in Allen's cross.

The tie had been decided but there was still time for Phelan to reduce Tottenham's margin of victory, for Sheringham to drive wide a penalty, awarded for Curle's foul on Turner, and for City's lunatic fringe to sour an otherwise memorable afternoon.

MANCHESTER CITY: A Coton; A Hill, T Phelan, F Simpson, K Curle, M Vonk, D White, M Sheron, N Quinn, G Flitcroft, R Holden.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: E Thorvaldt; D Austin, J Edinburgh, V Samways, G Mabbutt, N Ruddock, S Sedgley, Nayim, D Anderton (sub: A Turner), E Sheringham, P Allen.
Referee: R Lewis.

Arsenal win, page 22
England youth draw, page 23

Lewis blames goal celebrations

RAY Lewis, the Surrey referee, who took the players off the pitch at Maine Road yesterday, suggested that the crowd may have been incited by celebrations of Phelan's second goal for Manchester City (Ian Ross writes).

"The situation seemed to be under control very quickly and we must be grateful for that," he said. "You hope you have seen the last of these situations. There will always be the shadow of Hillsborough over English football and what happened there did go through my mind as the problem started." Lewis refereed the semi-final between Nottingham Forest and Liverpool in 1989 at Hillsborough in which 96 people lost their lives.

"As we were going off the pitch, I saw a woman being stretchered away. My report on this match will be very straightforward. I shall simply say that the game was held up for 12 minutes.

"We may well have to look at the question of how players celebrate goals because, on this occasion, it may have wound up some people."

Peter Swales, the Manchester City chairman, said: "I woke up this morning looking forward to a great day but it has turned out to be probably the worst day I've had in football. It is a very sad day for this club and there is now a possibility that we may have to put back up the fences we recently took down. I shall be attending a Football Association council meeting this morning and I expect what happened today to come under discussion."

Ray Clemence, the Tottenham assistant manager, said: "We are delighted to be through to another semi-final but what happened towards the end has taken much of the shine off what was a marvellous performance."

A spokesman for Greater Manchester Police said that 20 people had been arrested and that one female steward had been taken to hospital with slight injuries.

Nicklaus put in shade by Norman

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES, IN MIAMI

JACK Nicklaus shared the lead at one stage of the third round of the Doral-Ryder Open on Saturday. But by the end of the day, after returning a 67, five under par, he was nine strokes off the pace, level in fifth place with Sandy Lyle.

Lyle and Nicklaus, although playing well, were made to look ordinary by Norman. The Australian hit a number of birdies to leave everyone else floundering six shots behind.

Norman, tied for the halfway lead with Paul Azinger on 11 under par, started carefully enough, with three pars. But he birdied ten of the next 13 holes and Azinger found himself in second place.

"He's leaving us in the dust," Azinger said. "It's a little depressing when you're playing so well and you're so far behind. I hit a little loft and he just took off but it was fun to watch."



Norman finished with a round of 62, equalling the course record he set in the last round in 1990.

Norman went out in a relatively modest 32 and came home in 30, with three birdies in a row from the 10th and another three in a row from the 14th.

In third place were Mark McCumber and David Frost, on 202, followed by Nicklaus and Lyle, who had a 68, on 204. Nick Faldo was sharing 11th place on 207.

LEADING THIRD ROUND SCORES (US unless stated): 195: G Norman (Aus), 65, 65, 62. 201: P Azinger, 67, 66, 68. 202: M McCumber, 69, 67, 66; D Frost (SA), 70, 64, 68. 204: J Nicklaus, 68, 68, 67; A Lyle (GB), 69, 67, 68.

☐ Frank Nobilo, of New Zealand, held off challenges from David Feherty and Gordon Brand Jr to win the Mediterranean Open at El Saler yesterday after a round of 72.

Chalmers ruled out of New Zealand tour

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

CRAIG Chalmers, the Scotland stand-off half, will miss the British Isles' tour of New Zealand in May. He left hospital yesterday after being injured during the five nations' championship defeat by England at Twickenham on Saturday.

Chalmers, 24, a Lion in Australia in 1989, was a front runner for a place in the tour party, which will be announced on March 22. This season, he has played some of the best rugby of a four-year international career but suffered a break to both the radius and ulna of his right forearm after falling awkwardly in a tackle by Dewi Morris.

He was operated on at the West Middlesex hospital on Saturday evening, when a metal plate was inserted in his arm. Recovery is likely to take at least three months. The Lions leave for New Zealand on May 13 and Chalmers's injury could mean two Englishmen being selected at stand-off.

Stuart Barnes, who toured in New Zealand with England B last year as well as with England in 1985, thrust himself into contention by the quality of his display in England's 26-12 win, which destroyed Scottish hopes of the triple crown.

But the man he displaced, Rob Andrew — who played in two internationals for the Lions four years ago — may also benefit from Chalmers's absence, though it is not the way he would have chosen.

It gives an extra dimension to the meeting of Bath and Wasps in the Courage Clubs Championship on Saturday, though Barnes said he was "not even thinking about the Lions". He said: "I don't think I could have done my chances any harm but I'm not going to predict what's going to happen."

Andrew, disappointed to lose his England place, has 52 caps and neither Ireland nor Wales can put forward genuine alternatives.

Although Eric Elwood scored 11 points in Ireland's remarkable 19-14 win in Cardiff, the Lansdowne stand-off was making his debut. Neither Neil Jenkins nor Colin Stephens, of Wales, have looked the part this season.

Scotland suffered a further blow with Scott Hastings's sprained ankle ligaments but he is expected to play again after a fortnight and to be available for what would be his second Lions tour.

Ian McGeechan, in his final season as the Scotland coach, had to settle for a championship return of two wins and two defeats. "We are pleased with the progress we made," he said. "If we play full bore with everyone available, we are difficult to play against."

Ireland, after their first championship win since March 1990 — also against Wales — which ended a run of 11 successive defeats, play England in Dublin on March 20 and will announce their team, which is unlikely to show any changes, on Thursday.

The new five nations' trophy will be in Paris on March 20 as organisers suspect France will beat England to the title by virtue of superior points difference.

If England win in Ireland by a margin sufficient to overhaul France's points difference, or should the French lose to Wales, there will be embarrassment and nothing for England to receive in Dublin.

David Miller, page 21
Irish delight, page 21

DETAILS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	2	0	1	47	25	4
England	3	2	0	1	51	37	4
Scotland	4	2	0	2	50	40	4
Ireland	3	1	0	2	28	50	2
Wales	3	1	0	2	24	46	2

RESULTS: January 16: England 16, France 15; Scotland 15, Ireland 3. February 6: France 17, Scotland 3; Wales 10, England 9. February 20: Scotland 20, Wales 0; Ireland 6, France 21. March 6: England 26, Scotland 12; Wales 14, Ireland 18.
REMAINING MATCHES: March 20: France v Wales, Ireland v England.

Johnson says he will not contest life ban

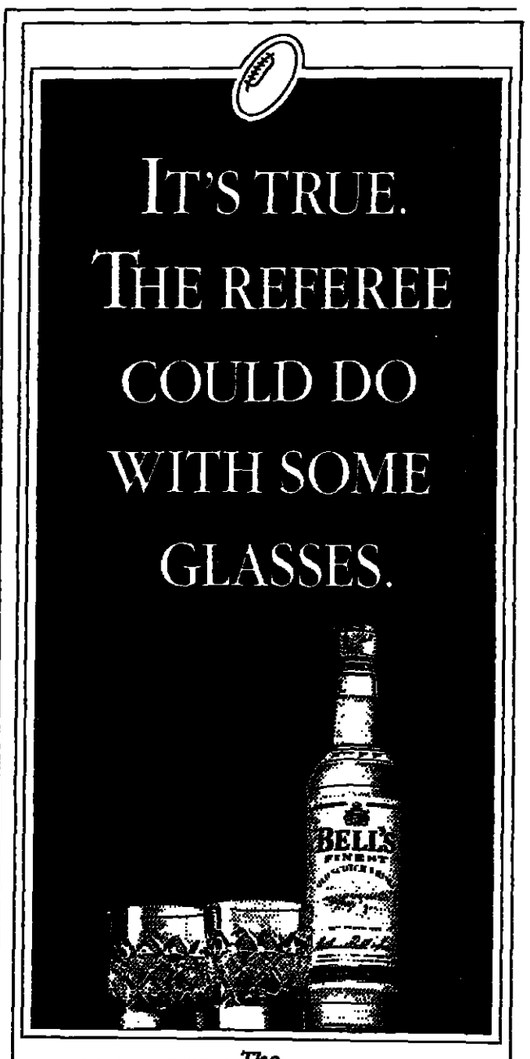
BEN Johnson, suspended by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) on Friday for a second drugs offence in five years, yesterday announced his retirement and said he will not appeal against his life ban from competition.

The IAAF imposed the ban after tests indicated Johnson, 31, had tested positive for performance-enhancing substances at a meeting in January. Johnson was stripped of his Olympic gold medal and world record after winning the 100 metres at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul after testing positive for steroids.

In a statement read out by his lawyer, Johnson said: "I wish today to announce my retirement from competitive running. I had hoped not to end my career this way. Although I have been advised by my counsel and other advisers that I have a strong case for an appeal, I have decided not to pursue that appeal having regard to my age, the cost of such an appeal and my obligations to my family.

"I have had a long career in track. I experienced success and failure. I said after the Seoul Olympics that I would come back and compete clean. I know that I did. To my family, my friends, my coach and my manager, and to all those who have supported me over the years, I wish to say thank you."

Arne Ljungqvist, the chairman of the IAAF doping commission, had said on Friday: "I can see no grounds for appeal when you look into the analytical data we have over eight years on this athlete. This athlete has been tested many times and his level has always been normal. Suddenly he was way above his own normal level."



The SPIRIT OF THE GAME

ELITE SPONSORS OF THE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Condemned teams await final hooter

By Alan Lee

THE fight for survival is an exaggerated theme in sport but it was a genuine description of yesterday's scrap, in the anonymous backstreets of St Helens, between the worst rugby league sides in the country. Highfield and Nottingham were playing not just for status but for their very existence.

Since last Wednesday, when the Rugby League Council unexpectedly revived its plan to streamline the game, the clubs who prop up the third division have been coming to terms with the reality that their sport wants to disown its dead wood.

If, as expected, the plan is adopted by a majority of clubs this week, the bottom three at the end of this season will be cast adrift to the wilderness of the Alliance, province of reserves and part-timers. For Highfield and Nottingham, that fate beckons loudly.

At kick-off yesterday, they had each won only once this season. The losers were surely condemned and, after a game of desperate commitment in which the lead changed hands four times, Nottingham were beaten 20-18 and faced a melancholy coach ride home to the near certainty of a brave venture ending in tears.

The Rugby Football League is almost apologetic about this cavalier treatment of member clubs, but there is to be no backing down. "Ours is a family game and it might be thought we are cutting off members of the family," its spokesman, David Howes, said. "But we believe the game will benefit from having two equal divisions."

Predictably, those in peril disagree, though their reactions are subtly different. From Highfield, there is angry defiance. From Nottingham, there is a sense of dismay and talk of compensation.

The hard-hearted will not mourn for them. It is easy to say their playing records do no credit to a professional game and that these are clubs run by a few fanatics for a few more fanatics to watch. But on a grey afternoon, on a pitch sandwiched between railway line and scrapyard, the will to live was strong.

Highfield's chairman is Geoff Fletcher, a champion of hopeless causes during his playing career and no different now. A huge man, a newsagent by trade, he prowled behind the goalposts throughout the game. "It hasn't sunk in yet," he said of the threat. "But at least the lads have turned up today. They want to fight on."

Fletcher has been devoting five days a week to the club and is negotiating for a new ground in Liverpool, which now may never be used. Highfield's proud boast is that they are solvent, but this is not a lot of use if you are extinct.

In the battered main stand, where the few dozen rival supporters grew steadily more heated, Paul Tomlinson sat quietly. The chairman of Nottingham is a local government officer and a self-confessed obsessive about a game he has, with little help, tried to keep alive in the Midlands.

"We have been at it for nine years and it is very hard," he said. "When we are short of money, the directors put their hands in their own pockets. But we are not millionaires. We're not even rich. If I was, then knowing how silly I am about this club, I would try to buy success."

Success was not on the agenda yesterday, only the faint possibility of survival. Highfield hung on to the points and their underpaid players went off in their battered Datsuns, a new season still something to aim for.

Nottingham hung their heads in resignation as the final hooter announced their 21st successive defeat, with a points against average of 50. The teams meet again on Easter Sunday. For one of them, at least, it will be too late.

SNOOKER

Davis in line for Crucible return

By Phil Yates

WITH only six weeks to the world championship, Steve Davis provided further evidence that he will again be a threat by overwhelming James Wattana 10-2 in the Wickes British Open final at the Assembly Rooms in Derby on Saturday.

Davis, who accounted for Stephen Hendry 10-4 in the European Open final two weeks ago, has won ten matches in succession and 62 of his past 83 frames. He has now amassed 65 titles in his 15 years as a professional.

"This certainly puts me in with a realistic chance of winning [the world title] at the Crucible. I've got the bit between my teeth," Davis said.

After including two exceptional total clearances, 139 and 135, in a 6-3 semi-final defeat of Jimmy White, Davis reverted to a more defensive, but equally effective, approach against Wattana. The match was all but decided after the first session as Davis established an 8-1 lead with his straitjacket safety play.

Wattana, who beat Davis 9-4 in the world matchplay final in December, counted a 33 clearance as his highest break. "Steve's tactics were brilliant," Wattana said. "He never gave me a chance to get going. It's the best I've seen him play in a long, long time."

Davis is convinced that he has improved immeasurably since three successive tournament victories midway through the 1991-2 campaign proved a false dawn.

"There is no comparison in my form or confidence," the six-times world champion said. "A year ago, even when I was winning I was scrambling. These days I'm showing a bit of class."

RESULT: Final: S Davis (Eng) bt J Wattana (Thai), 10-2. Frame scores (Davis first): 62-20, 116-10, 59-30, 93-21, 52-65, 67-46, 69-19, 80-12, 65-56, 95-8, 31-90, 65-23.



Winning score: Umarji, of Oxford, dives over for what proved to be the winning try in the women's university rugby union match at Cambridge City Rugby Club yesterday. Umarji's score was the only try of the game as Oxford kept up a sequence of victories that was extended to six matches, winning 5-3. Cambridge won the first game in 1987, but Oxford have been unbeaten ever since, although their opponents pushed them harder than they did last year, when Oxford won 28-4. The match, for which half-blues were awarded by the Cambridge blues committee for the first time this year, was well attended by a crowd of more than 1,000. Photograph: Marc Aspland.

Benn retains title in turn-off for viewers

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

THOSE television viewers who switched off the Nigel Benn-Mauro Galvano boxing match on Saturday night because they had hoped to see boxing, not a boring wrestling bout, can rest assured they missed little. Benn was wobbled in the final seconds, but he survived to retain his World Boxing Council super-middleweight title by a big margin and leave Galvano kicking himself for not making a fight of it earlier.

There were more breaks in this contest in Glasgow than in a snooker tournament — it was estimated at one every nine seconds — because of Galvano's spoiling tactics and Benn's tendency to keep walking straight back into the Italian's arms. The referee, Tony Perez, of New York, did nothing to caution Galvano. If the bout had been held under British rules, Galvano would have been thrown out. Louis Michel, the French judge, thought Galvano's methods were "lamentable".

Benn was glad to see the back of Galvano but glad also that he had gone 12 rounds for the first time in his career. "I haven't had a more frustrating fight," Benn said. "I let him do whatever he wanted to. Jimmy [Tibbs, his trainer] wanted me to do a lot of things but I couldn't do them."

Benn's next opponent will be Lou Gent, of Tooting, the World Boxing Council's international champion, at the end of May. He then hopes to meet James Toney, the International Boxing Federation champion.

☐ Mark McCreath, of Lincoln, was unable to prevent Valery Kayumba, France's European light-welterweight champion, retaining his title and his unbeaten record in Paris on Saturday night. The referee stopped the bout in the eleventh round.

☐ An application by Colin McMillan, the 27-year-old former WBO featherweight champion, for a manager's licence has been rejected by the British Boxing Board of Control's Southern Area Council.

England launch cup campaign

HOCKEY: The England women launched their build-up to the World Cup in September by retaining the home countries under-21 crown, conceding just one goal in their three games, beating Scotland 2-1 in the final match. Ireland were runners-up after beating Wales 1-0. The sides fielded the daughters of famous fathers: Wales, Anna John (Barry), and Ireland, Jan Gibson (Mike).

In the men's Pizza Express National League, Indian Gymkhana's 5-0 win over Doncaster earned them promotion to the first division at the expense of Guildford, who missed out on goal difference despite a 7-0 victory over Cambridge City. Southgate, who drew 1-1 with Old Loughtonians, assured themselves of the runner-up position behind Hounslow in the first division.

Oxford University won the Peroni Premier B division title with a 5-0 victory over Old Bordenians, and qualified for the inter-league play-offs, where they could become the first university team to qualify for the national league.

Batten spurs Thames

ROWING: Miriam Batten, the Olympic finalist, stroked Thames RC to victory in the Women's Head on Saturday (Mike Rosewell writes). Thames, with four other internationals in the crew, started in second place behind Tideway Scullers, who had seven internationals, including Jo Turvey, Batten's Olympic partner. Scullers failed to draw away in the first five minutes and a scheduled push by Thames from the Bandstand to Hammersmith allowed them to regain the headship by five seconds.

Pointers for the women's Boat Race on March 21 went in favour of Cambridge, who finished third, beating Oxford by 28 seconds. Cambridge looked an outstanding combination, as did their lightweights, who finished fifth. Lady Eleanor Holles School finished a remarkable 22nd in the 202-crew entry to win the school honours by half a minute.

Referee stings Wasps

ICE HOCKEY: Durham Wasps intend to complain to the British Ice Hockey Association over the refereeing of their 9-3 defeat by Bracknell Bees in the Heineken League. Paul Smith, the Wasps' player-coach, was unhappy as 131 minutes in penalties were handed out to the former champions, who now languish at the foot of the premier division, while Bees received 56 minutes.

Cardiff Devils, the champions, returned to winning ways, beating Nottingham Panthers 9-6.

Cousins qualifies

ICE SKATING: Steven Cousins finished fourth of his 22-strong group in the men's qualifying round at the world championships in Prague yesterday. Cousins was given a minute's delay to stem an untimely nosebleed before taking the ice for his four-and-a-half-minute free programme. Ten of his group were eliminated. The women hold their eliminating round today, with the British champion, Charlene von Saher, under pressure, having recently changed her coach and her programme.

Douglas at the double

TABLE TENNIS: Carl Prean won the title but had to share the limelight with Desmond Douglas when he regained the men's singles at the English championships at Kings Lynn yesterday with a 13-21, 21-17, 14-21, 21-10, 21-9 victory in the final. It took Prean 50 minutes to quell his 37-year-old opponent, who also made the final of the doubles, where he and Richard Tilford lost to Nicky Mason and Skylet Andrew. Andrea Holt, the second seed, won the women's singles 22-20, 22-20, 21-18 against Fiona Mommessin.

Davies survives storm

REAL TENNIS: Wayne Davies, of Australia, the world champion, retained his title 7-6 in New York, against Lachie Deuchar, his compatriot, after one of the most tense and hard-fought challenges of recent years. Davies took a 5-3 lead after the first two legs and at the start of the third leg appeared to be set for an easy defence but Deuchar fought back superbly. Deuchar recovered to level the match at 6-6 before some outstanding cross-court volleying gave the champion victory.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

SAN VITTORE OLONA, Italy: IAAF world cross-country challenge: Men (10km): 1, F Bayeca (Eth), 32min 24sec; 2, W Bekila (Eth), 32.36; 3, H Silasse (Eth), 32.38. British placings: 6, S Tunstall, 33:01; 9, B Dee, 33.20. Overall: 1, Bayeca, 100pts; 2, J Karuki (Kenya), 80; 3, I Kiru (Kenya), 78. British placings: 6, Tunstall, 71; 9, J Brown, 58. Women (5km): 1, E Kiplagat (Kenya), 18.56; 2, O Bondarenko (Russ), 19.03; 3, E Fidatov (Rom), 19.05. Overall: 1, C McKiernan (Ire) 97, equal 2, A Dias (Por), Kiplagat, 88.

KARLSRUHE, Germany: Indoor meeting: Men: 60m: M McKoy (Can), 6.42sec; 800m: P van Heiden (Holl), 1min 47.33sec; 2,000m: J-P Herold (Ger), 4.56.22; 60m hurdles: C Jackson (GB), 7.44. Women: 60m: O Bogoslovskaya (Russ), 7.20; 200m: E Pucina (Russ), 23.25; 800m: E Kovacs (Rom), 2.02.09; High jump: H Henkel (Ger), 1.97m; Long jump: H Drechsler (Ger), 6.99.

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG LEAGUE: Men: First division: Birmingham Bullets 108 (Singleton 35, Rucker 20). Hemel Hempstead Royals 85 (Riggs 20, Hope 19); Cheshire Jets 87 (Thomas 28, Hemris 23). Proton Manchester Giants 67 (Crowen 17, Lloyd 12). Derby Bucks 67 (Mitchell 19, Hood 16); Thames Valley Tigers 74 (L James 25, Lloyd 16). Guildford Kings 102 (Gordon 26, Duncan 16). Oldham Celtics 63 (Fite 26, Henderson 14), London Towers 100 (R Scantlebury 32, P Scantlebury 20), Leicester City Riders 85 (Bogg 25, Waldron 22); Stentofon Worthing Bears 111 (Lewis 30, Irish 22), Sunderland Saints 88 (Nottage 22, Puzic 22). Second division: Solent Stars 88, Crystal Palace 95; Ware Rebels 104, Plymouth Raiders 81. Third division: Chiltern Fastbreak 67, Stevenage Phoenix 61. Guildford 79, Sedgefield Racers 70; Sheffield Forgers 61, Leicester Falcons 65; Swindon Sonics 105, Mid Sussex Magic 60. Women: First division: Cheshire Ladies 76, Rhondda 55; London Central YMCA 50, Northampton 76, Avesta Sheffield Hatters 68, Chesham Ladies 57.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: San Antonio Spurs 107, Chicago Bulls 102 (OT). Boston Celtics 105, Detroit Pistons 101. Miami Heat 109, Los Angeles Clippers 105. Houston Rockets 105, Dallas Mavericks 86. Milwaukee Bucks 109 Orlando Magic 91. Phoenix Suns 130, Sacramento Kings 122. Los Angeles Lakers 101, Philadelphia 76ers 97 (OT). Charlotte Hornets 94, Portland Trail Blazers 92. Saturday: Atlanta Hawks 139, Utah Jazz 116. New Jersey Nets 117, Denver Nuggets 90; Minnesota Timberwolves 108, San Antonio Spurs 105. Phoenix Suns 109, Dallas Mavericks 102. Houston Rockets 119, Sacramento Kings 102; Seattle SuperSonics 149, Philadelphia 76ers 93.

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BOWLS

CU HAVEN INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-finals: Cyphers 75, Perdiswell 62; Stanley 116, North Walsham 53. Final: Cyphers 105, Stanley 63. Rink scores (Cyphers skips first): A Thomson 39, G Oughton 13. G Smith 24, M McGreevy 14. T Heppell 28, C Palmer 16. M Sekar 14, J Leeman 20.

ATHERLEY TROPHY (women's inter-county championship): Final: Lincolnshire 159, Berkshire 87. Rink scores (Lincolnshire skips first): P Strong 30, N Cannon 13; K Scaife 34, B Reynolds 9; J Sorat 28, J Broad 15; S Gardner 21, M Price 16; J Edson 21, Y Tilley 13; M Hewmson 25, M Robson 15.

UNIVERSITY MATCH (at Chesterton, Cambridge): Cambridge 26, Oxford 12.

BOXING

GLASGOW: WBC super-middleweight championship: Nigel Benn (Ilford, holder) bt Mauro Galvano (It), pts.

PARIS: WBA super-bantamweight championship: Wilfredo Vasquez (P Rico, holder) bt Luis Mendoza (Col), pts. European light-welterweight championship: Valery Kayumba (Fr, holder) bt Mark McCreath (GB), rsc 11th rnd. WBC cruiserweight championship: Anaclet Wamba (Fr, holder) bt David Vedder (US), pts.

NEW YORK: WBC welterweight championship: Pernell Whitaker (US) bt James McGirt (US, holder), pts.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Adelaide: South Australia 362 (G Blewett 119, J Brayshaw 91, T Nielsen 64) and 169-3 (Brayshaw 94 not out). Victoria 385-8 dec (W Phillips 122, S O'Donnell 66, D Jones 67). Perth: Queensland 331 (S Law 116, P Anderson 63, B Julian 5-103) and 225-3 (D Kingdon 56 not out; Julian 4-82). Western Australia 298 (M McPhee 59, M Veletta 55, M Kasprowicz 5-64).

RED STRIPE CUP: Georgetown: Jamaica 181 (C Davidson 52) and 52-1. Guyana 159 (C Lambert 61). Castries, St Lucia: Windward Islands 70-4 v Leeward Islands. Bridgetown: Barbados 79 and 152 for 2 (R Holder 78 not out, S Campbell 60 not out) v Trinidad and Tobago 178 (O Gibson 5-46).

CYCLING

ROAD RACES: Kirkby CC-Eddie Soens Memorial Handicap (Aintree, 50 miles): 1, S Lillistone (North Wirral Velo), 1 40 26 (event record); 2, C Boardman (North Wirral Velo) at 14sec, equal 3, P Jennings (North Wirral Velo) and D Williams (RT Italia), both same time. Rockingham Forest Wheelers (Middleton, Northamptonshire, 60 miles): 1, J Tanner (Dinnington RC), 2hr 27min 12sec; 2, A Perks (CC Giro); 3, M Lovatt (SG Bollington), all same time. Dulwich Primavera (Sevenoaks, 67 miles): S Cope (PCA), 2 40 00. San Fairy Ann CC (Eastway, London, 34 miles): G Holmes (Rennrad Club, Norwich), 1 16 30. CC 90 (Wrexham, Clwyd, 43 miles): M Gornall (RC 100), 1 47 18. Northamptonshire CRA handicap (Middleton, 30 miles): I Wild (Peterborough CC), 1 18 50. CC Abergavenny handicap (45 miles): G Day (CC Abergavenny), 1 45 42.

TIME-TRIALS: Border City Wheelers hilly (Carlisle, 34 miles): J Wright (North East RT), 1.25 23 (course and event record). Team: North East RT 4.20 10. Hainault RC hilly (Essex, 50km): A Lyons (Olympia Sport), 1 16 02. Team: Bishop's Stortford CC 4 06 40. Spalding CC hilly (29.5 miles): J French (VC Bad), 1 08 02. Team: Peterborough CC 3 58 26. North Lancashire RC (Circuit of Pendle, 26 miles): G Butler (RT Italia), 1 03 18 (event record). Hampshire RC 38km: P Rogers (VC St Raphael), 1.00 52. Team: VC Venta 3 16 36. Musselburgh RC team (East Lothian, 27.5 miles): City of Edinburgh RC 1 03 36. Circuit of Poole Harbour (26.5 miles): C Ball (Antelope RT), 1 01 00. Team: Antelope RT 3 10 22. Featherstone RC (Yorkshire, 25 miles): K Dawson (GS Strada), 55 29 (course and event record). Team: Featherstone RC (fastest third rider 1:01 52). Nottingham Clarion two-up 24.3 miles: P Wilkins and D Cross (Ashfield RC), 52 58. Border CA hilly (Midhurst, Sussex, 19.5 miles): B Goggin (CC Woking), 51 57. Team: CC Woking 2 40 09. CC Breckland (Norfolk, 10 miles): R Boundy (CC Breckland), 58 25. Team: CC Breckland 3 06 38. A5 Rangers (Northamptonshire, 10 miles): L Pick (Icknield RC), 22 50. Deeside Thistle CC (Aberdeen, 10 miles): P Duncan (Aberdeen Muth Sports), 23 02. Hull Thursday RC two-up (25 miles): G Boardman and P Longbottom (North Wirral Velo), 50.07 (event record). Matlock CC hilly (22.5 miles): M Walsham (PCA), 56.30. Team: Chesterfield Couriers 2.56 04. St Budeaux CC 25 miles: C Brooks (VC Camelot), 52.59. Team: VC Camelot (fastest third rider) 57.17. Dursley RC (Gloucestershire, 10 miles): R Prebble (Wemplay RC), 20.43 (course and event record). Team: JPM Racing 1 08 40. Cardiff Ajax CC (10 miles): S Cangarfield (Leo RC), 20.30. Denny RC (Stirling, 10 miles): G Nicholson (Greenock RC), 21 53. Team: Dunfermline and District CC 1 10 35.

GOLF

EL SALER, Valencia: Turespana Mediterranean Open: Final scores (GB and Ireland unless stated): 279: F Nobilo (NZ), 71, 69, 67, 72. 280: G Brand Jr, 70, 72, 70, 68; D Feherty, 70, 69, 72, 69. 281: J M Olazábal (Sp), 71, 69, 75, 66; C Rocca (It), 70, 72, 71, 68; S Luna (Sp) 67, 72, 72, 70; T Levet (Fr), 71, 70, 69, 71. 282: J Payne, 68, 67, 78, 69; D Gilford, 70, 73, 70, 69; J Parnevik (Swe), 71, 67, 73, 71; M Lanner (Swe), 73, 69, 69, 71; M Roe, 69, 70, 70, 73. 283: M Davis, 68, 72, 74, 69; C Montgomerie, 69, 72, 70, 72; G Ralph, 74, 68, 68, 73; R Chapman, 72, 71, 67, 73; S Torrance, 71, 70, 68, 74. 284: E Romero (Arg), 68, 73, 75, 68; J M Cañizares (Sp), 71, 70, 75, 68; F Lindgren (Swe), 71, 73, 67, 73. 285: S Langer (Ger), 72, 74, 69, 70; E O'Connell, 73, 66, 70, 72. 286: J Hobday (SA), 74, 68, 74, 70; M Sunesson (Swe), 74, 70, 72, 70; J Singh (Fiji), 69, 74, 73, 70; P Lawrie, 77, 67, 71, 71; A Hunter, 72, 69, 74, 71; D W Basson (SA), 72, 72, 71. 287: J McHenry, 72, 69, 76, 70; G Evans, 73, 68, 72, 74; P Way, 75, 68, 70, 74; J Rystrom (Swe), 69, 76, 68, 74; P Baker, 70, 71, 71, 75. 288: P Clayden, 72, 70, 74, 72; P Price, 73, 71, 74, 70; D Mijovic (Can), 73, 72, 73, 70; P Broadhurst, 72, 69, 73, 74; J Haeggman (Swe), 69, 75, 70, 74.

FENCING

SEYMOUR LEISURE CENTRE, London: Martini Challenge épée tournament: Quarter-finals: R Felsiak (Ger) bt G Kraewski (Ger), 6-5, 3-5, 6-5; F Pena (Sp) bt A Mazzoni (It), 5-2, 4-6, 6-4; P Marzo (Sp) bt M Fiegler (Ger), 6-4, 5-2; M Strzalka (Ger) bt F Leroux (Fr), 5-6, 6-5, 5-3. Semi-finals: Felsiak bt Pena, 5-2, 6-4; Strzalka bt Marzo, 5-3, 6-3. Final: Felsiak bt Strzalka, 5-2, 6-5.

HOCKEY

PIZZA EXPRESS NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Bournville 2, Surbiton 0; Cannock 2, Firebrands, East Grinstead 1; Bromley 3, Havant 3; Stourport 1, Hounslow 3; Neston 1, Old Loughtonians 1; Southgate 1; St Albans 1, Canterbury 1; Teddington 3, Slough 1, Welton 2; Trojans 2. Second division: Beeston 2, Chelmsford 1; Brean 0, Harleston Magpies 2; Cambridge City 0, Guildford 7; Cheltenham 0, Harborne 4; Indian Gymkhana 5, Doncaster 0; Lyons 3, Richmond 2, Old Kingstonians 2; Brooklands 1, Reading 4; Barford Tigers 2, Warrington 1; Isca 2.

ERNST AND YOUNG NORTH PREMIER LEAGUE: First division: Alderley Edge 1, York 2; Durham University 3, Ben Rhydding 3; Formby 1, Wakefield 0; Norton 2, Hightown Northern 0; Timperley 2, Sheffield 1. Second division: Halifax 0, Harrogate 1; Knutsford 0, Ramgarhia 1; Preston 2, Blackburn 5, Springfields 3; Bowdon 0, Southport 2; Orsey 0, Stockton 3; Liverpool Sefton 2, Sunderland 3; Sheffield Bankers 2, Swansea 1; Wigan 0.

ERNST AND YOUNG MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper 1, Derby 1; Bridgnorth 2, Coventry and North Warwickshire 2; Edgbaston 2, Worcester; Norton 0, Hampton in Arden 0; Leicester Westleigh 0, Khalsa 1; Olton and West Warwick 2.

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford 3, Broxbourne 0; Colchester 0, Bluharts 1; Crostyx 2, Redbridge and Ilford 3; Ipswich 5, Cambridge University 2; Luton 4, Westcliff 1; Norwich City 1, Dereham 0; Pelicans 0, Stevenage 4; West Herts 4, Wisbech 3.

PERONI SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier League: Division A: Hampstead and Westminster 4, Maidenhead 1. Premier League Division B: Marden Russets 0, London U 2; Oxford U 5, Old Bordenians 0. Regionals: Hampshire/Surrey: Basingstoke 6, Walton 0. Kent/Sussex: Greenwich 1, Medway Sena 0.

SURREY COUNTY CUP: Final (at Old Walcountians): Purley 3, Old Whitgiftians 3 (aet; Purley won on penalty strokes).

WOMEN'S HOME COUNTRIES UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP (at Milton Keynes): England 2, Wales 0; Scotland 1, Ireland 2; England 1, Ireland 0; Wales 1, Scotland 0; Wales 0, Ireland 1; England 2, Scotland 1. Final positions: 1, England; 2, Ireland; 3, Wales; 4, Scotland.

AEWHA CUP: Fifth round: Sutton Coldfield 5, Sherwood 1.

WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY MATCH: Cambridge 1, Oxford 1.

SENIOR WOMEN'S CLUBS: Bracknell 2, Pressed Steel 0; Cambridge City 1, Chelmsford 4; Crimson Ramblers 1, Leicester 0; Trojans 0, Exmouth 0; Woking 7, Wimbledon 2; Yate 0, Redland 1.

EAST WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Berkhamsted and HH 1, Ipswich B 0; Bexleyheath 0, Sevenoaks 0; St Albans 4, Anchorians 0; Saracens 1, Canterbury 0; Welwyn 3, Redbridge and I 0. Final positions: 1, Canterbury, 24pts; 2, St Albans, 21; 3, Saracens, 18.

SOUTH WALES WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Cwmbran 0, Cwmtawe 1.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter Championship

First division

HALIFAX 28 CASTLEFORD 16

Halifax: Tries: Dvorny, Fogerty, Hamson, Preston. Goals: Bishop (6). Castleford: Tries: Smith, Southernwood. Goals: Crooks (4). Att: 6,874

LEEDS 46 SHEFFIELD 10

Leeds: Tries: Holroyd (2), Cook, Dixon, Lowes, Middleton, O'Neill, Tait. Goals: Irving (7). Sheffield: Tries: Aston, Jack. Goal: Aston. Att: 8,012

SALFORD 28 HULL 10

Salford: Tries: Critchley, Evans, Forber, Ford, Howard. Goals: Blakeley (3). Hull: Tries: Grant, Herjak. Goal: Eastwood. Att: 3,043.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	18	15	0	3	505	220	30
St Helens	20	15	0	5	463	268	30
Widnes	18	11	0	7	402	266	22
Halifax	19	11	0	8	405	344	22
Castleford	20	10	1	9	412	307	21
Leeds	19	10	1	8	457	357	21
Bradford	17	10	0	7	371	314	20
Hull	22	9	0	13	296	439	16
Warrington	19	8	1	10	319	290	17
Sheffield	20	8	0	12	374	460	16
Salford	20	8	0	12	359	513	16
Wakefield	21	7	1	13	322	435	15
Leigh	20	6	2	12	263	472	14
Hull KR	19	5	0	14	227	435	10

Second division

Carlisle	8	Bramley	11
Huddersfield	14	Oldham	8
Rochdale	24	Featherstone	40
Swinton	25	London Crus	24

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Featherstone	22	20	0	2	730	276	40
Oldham	21	16	0	5	579	346	32
Rochdale	22	12	0	10	461	462	24
Huddersfield	20	10	0	10	374	413	20
London Crus	22	8	1	13	394	462	17
Bramley	21	7	1	13	390	448	15
Carlisle	21	5	2	14	341	522	12
Swinton	21	5	0	16	295	525	10

Third division

Blackpool	8	Keighley	82
Doncaster	31	Chorley	12
Highfield	20	Nottingham	18
Hunslet	30	Barrow	16
Workington	20	Batley	12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Workington	20	16	0	4	701	194	32
Keighley	18	15	0	3	663	194	30
Whitehaven	19	14	0	5	594	229	28
Dewsbury	19	14	0	5	492	225	28
Ryedale York	19	13	0	6	623	256	26
Batley	19	13	0	6	408	187	26
Doncaster	20	13	0	7	487	322	26
Hunslet	18	13	0	5	443	301	26
Barrow	22	4	0	18	396	805	8
Blackpool	19	4	0	15	265	679	8
Chorley	20	3	0	17	226	699	6
Highfield	17	2	0	15	199	759	4
Nottingham	20	1	0	19	124	971	2

RUGBY UNION

Five nations' championship

ENGLAND 26 SCOTLAND 12

England: Tries: Guscott, R Underwood, T Underwood. Con: Webb. Pens: Webb (3). Scotland: Pens: G Hastings (3). Dropped goal: Chalmers.

WALES 14 IRELAND 19

Wales: Try: I Evans. Pens: Jenkins (3). Ireland: Try: Robinson. Con: Elwood. Pens: Elwood (3). Dropped goal: Clarke.

Club matches

Broughton Pk	9	Newcastle G	40
Cambridge Univ	13	Bradford	37
Coventry	7	Nottingham	10
Fylde	19	Leeds	25
Havant	71	Thurrock	5
Hereford	34	Plymouth	14
Lichfield	23	Barry Hill	12
L Scottish	12	Edinburgh Ac	25
Met Police	11	Askeans	27
Morley	28	Liverpool St H	12
Sheffield	41	Vale of Lune	10
Wakefield	28	Orrell	39
Waterloo	18	Harrogate	30
W Hartlepool	23	Sale	27
Watsonians	25	Musselburgh	8

Yesterday

LEICESTERSHIRE CUP: Semi-finals: Melton 3, Syston 35. South Leicester 12, Westleigh 15.

NOTTS, LINCS AND DERBYS CUP: Quarter-finals: Ashbourne 9, Paviors 14; Chesterfield 50, Grimsby 5; Derby 28, Amber Valley 16; Scunthorpe 5, Mansfield 0.

WARWICKSHIRE CUP: Quarter-finals: Barkers Butts 40, Newbold on Avon 22; Bedworth 14, Leamington 6; Old Leamingtonians 15, Keresley 17. Trinity Guild 11, Broadstreet 54.

Late results on Friday

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Wales A 28, Ireland A 29 (at Newport).

STUDENT INTERNATIONAL: England 76, Scotland 20.

CLUB MATCHES: Ayr 12, Stirling County 23; Bedford 23, Selkirk 19; Bristol 61, Pontypridd 7; Clifton 50, Portadown 28; Glamorgan Wanderers 60, City of Derry 6; Gloucester 42, Bridgend 16; Hawick 42, Boroughmuir 20; Leicester 25, Moseley 5; London Irish 68, Heriot's FP 10; Newbridge 19, Bath 13; Northampton 41, Gala 12; Rosslyn Park 62, Streatham-Croydon 0; Rugby 42, Jed-Forest 15; Wasps 11, Melrose 16.

REAL TENNIS

NEW YORK: World Championship: W Davies (Aus) bt L Deuchar (Aus), 7-6 (Davies scores first): First leg: 4-6, 6-5, 6-3, 6-1. Second leg: 3-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3. Final leg: 3-6, 6-5, 3-6, 3-6, 6-1.

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Premier division: Billingham 14, Norwich and Peterborough 6; Bracknell 9, Durham 3; Nottingham 6, Cardiff 9. First division: Milton Keynes 5, Sheffield 8; Slough 9, Medway 3; Swindon 4, Telford 13.

ENGLISH LEAGUE: Sunderland 4, Bristol 13; Wightlink 13, Streatham 7.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Chicago Blackhawks 1, New Jersey Devils 1 (OT); Hartford Whalers 4, Buffalo Sabres 2; Detroit Red Wings 5, Toronto Maple Leafs 1; New York Rangers 3, Pittsburgh Penguins 1; Philadelphia Flyers 3, Washington Capitals 0. Saturday: Boston Bruins 4, St Louis Blues 3 (OT); Hartford Whalers 5, Vancouver Canucks 1; Quebec Nordiques 10, New York Rangers 2; Tampa Bay Lightning 7, Calgary Flames 4; Minnesota North Stars 4, Montreal Canadiens 3; Toronto Maple Leafs 4, Winnipeg Jets 2; Los Angeles Kings 6, Edmonton Oilers 1.

MOTOR RALLYING

PORTUGUESE RALLY: Final placings: 1, F Delecour (Fr), Ford Escort, 6hr 20min 37sec; 2, M Biasion (It), Ford Escort, 55sec behind; 3, A Aghini (It), Lancia, 2:40; 4, M Alen (Fin), Subaru, 3:46; 5, K Eriksson (Swe), Mitsubishi, 4:51; 6, A Fiorio (It), Lancia, 5:41; 7, C McRae (GB), Subaru, 16:48. World championship: Drivers: 1, Delecour, 35pts; 2, Biasion, 27; 3, J Kankkunen (Fin), Toyota Celica, 23. British placing: 7, McRae, 16. Manufacturers: 1, Toyota, 40; 2, Ford, 37; 3, Mitsubishi, 33.

ROWING

WOMEN'S HEAD (Mortlake to Putney): 1, Thames A, 18min 58sec (open winners); 2, Tideway Scullers A, 19:03; 3, Cambridge University A, 19:11 (university winners); 4, Thames Tradesmen A, 19:28 (senior one winners); 5, Cambridge University B, 19:30 (senior two winners); 6, Tideway Scullers B, 19:36; 7, Staines A, 19:36.6; 8, Osiris A (Oxford), 19:39; 9, Weybridge A, 19:40; 10, London University, 19:43. Other division winners: Senior three: Cambridge University C, 20:02. School: Lady Eleanor Holles, 20:19. Overseas: Bonner, Germany 20.35. Novice: Lady Margaret, Cambridge, 21:02.

SKIING

MORZINE, France: Women's World Cup: Downhill: 1, K Seizinger (Ger), 1min 18.88sec; 2, R Häusl (Ger), 1:18.90; 3, A Lodemel (Nor), 1:19.08; 4, C Merle (Fr), 1:19.21; 5, R Renoth (Ger), 1:19.61; 6, V Stallmaier (Austria), 1:19.63. British placing: 45, D Pratt, 1:24.07. Super-giant slalom: 1, D Compagnoni (It), 1min 12.68sec; 2, K Seizinger (Ger), 1:12.80; 3, A Wachter (Austria), 1:12.98; 4, K Lee-Gartner (Can), 1:13.04; 5, S Eder (Austria), 1:13.07; 6, B Merlin (It), 1:13.11. British placing: D Pratt did not finish. World Cup: Overall: 1, Wachter, 1,027pts; 2, Seizinger, 932; 3, Merle, 846; 4, M Vogt (Ger), 549; 5, Lee-Gartner, 510; 6, Maier, 405. Super-giant slalom: 1, Merle, 286; 2, Wachter, 277; 3, Maier, 278. Downhill: 1, Seizinger, 580; 2, Häusl, 297; 3, Merle, 260.

SNOOKER

DERBY: Wickes British Open: Semi-final: S Davis (Eng) bt J White (Eng), 6-3. Final: Davis bt J Wattana (Thai), 10-2. Frame scores (Davis first): 62-20, 115-10, 59-30, 93-21, 52-65, 67-46, 69-19, 80-12, 65-56, 95-8, 31-90, 65-23.

TABLE TENNIS

KING'S LYNN: Master Foods English championships: Men's singles: Quarter-finals: N Mason (Surrey) bt B Billington (Derbys), 21-18, 14-21, 21-8, 21-12; D Douglas (Warwicks) bt A Perry (Devon), 21-13, 21-6, 21-13; M Syed (Berks) bt A Eden (Essex), 17-21, 21-9, 21-16, 22-20; C Prean (IoW) bt S Andrew (Essex), 21-11, 21-10, 21-15. Semi-finals: Douglas bt Mason, 21-15, 19-21, 21-14, 21-17; Prean bt Syed, 21-18, 21-17, 21-15. Women's singles: Quarter-finals: L Lomas (Beds) bt S Marling (Yorks), 21-10, 21-17, 21-11; F Mommessin (Staffs) bt L Radford (Essex), 21-14, 21-11, 21-19; A Gordon (Berks) bt K Goodall (Yorks), 21-17, 21-14, 21-12; A Holt (Lancs) bt H Lower (Staffs), 21-10, 18-21, 21-19, 21-14. Semi-finals: Mommessin bt Lomas, 21-13, 21-18, 18-21, 21-14; Holt bt Gordon, 15-21, 18-21, 21-10, 21-16, 21-13. Mixed doubles: Final: Andrew and Mommessin bt J Holland (Essex) and Gordon, 21-19, 21-15.

SQUASH

MADRID: Spanish Open: Quarter-finals: R Norman (NZ) bt H Wiens (Ger), 15-13, 15-9, 11-15, 8-15, 15-9; C Dittmar (Aus) bt P Whitlock (Eng), 15-5, 15-13, 15-8. Semi-finals: Jansher Khan (Pak) bt S Elopuro (Fin), 15-8, 15-10, 15-5; C Dittmar (Aus) wo R Norman (NZ), scr. Final: Jansher Khan bt Dittmar, 15-13, 12-15, 6-15, 15-7, 15-8.

TENNIS

INDIAN WELLS, California: Champions Cup: Quarter-finals: J Courier (US) bt M Rosset (Switz), 6-3, 6-7, 6-3; M Chang (US) bt P Korda (Cz), 6-1, 6-3; W Ferreira (SA) bt A Mancini (Sp), 6-4, 7-6; A Volkov (Russ) bt F Santoro (Fr), 6-4, 6-1. Semi-finals: Courier bt Chang, 6-4, 6-4; Ferreira bt Volkov, 7-6, 6-3.

DELRAY BEACH, Florida: Women's tournament: Quarter-finals: S Graf (Ger) bt Z Garrison-Jackson (US), 6-1, 6-7, 6-4; A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt B Rittner (Ger), 6-1, 6-0; A Huber (Ger) bt M Fernandez (US), 6-4, 6-4; A Coetzer (SA) bt L Davenport (US), 6-4, 6-2. Semi-finals: Sánchez Vicario bt Coetzer, 6-2, 6-2; Graf bt Huber, 6-1, 6-1.

COPENHAGEN: Men's tournament: Semi-finals: N Kulti (Swe) bt B Steven (NZ), 7-6, 6-4; A Olhovskiy (Russ) wo M Larsson (Swe), scr. Final: Olhovskiy bt Kulti, 7-5, 3-6, 6-2.

SAARBRUCKEN, Germany: European Winter Under-16 Cup: Final: Britain bt Germany, 2-1.

FOOTBALL

WOMEN'S FA Cup: Quarter-finals: Arsenal 5, Red Star Southampton 1; Ipswich 2, Doncaster Belles 5; Maidstone Tigresses 1, Bronte 2; Wimbledon 1, Bromley 2. League cup: Second round: Leasowe Pacific 7, Millwall Lionesses 0. First division north: Abbeydale Alvechurch 8, St Helens 1; Milton Keynes 1, Wolverhampton 9. First division south: Bristol Backwell 1, Horsham 2; Hassocks 2, Brighton 1; Hemel Hempstead 1, District Line 5; Saltdean 0, Epsom and Ewell 3; Town and County 1, Oxford Utd 0.

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

FA Cup
Sixth round
Derby v Sheffield Wednesday (all ticket, 7.45)

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Sunderland v Manchester City (7.0). Second division: Port Vale v Bradford City (7.0).

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea v Brighton (7.0); Crystal Palace v West Ham; Swindon v Bristol City (2.0).

FA CUP: Fifth round: Manchester United v York City.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: First division: Caernarfon v Congleton.

Withdrawal of Scotland's stand-off with broken arm is turning point in 100th Calcutta Cup match

Brilliant Barnes opens way for backs to shine

England	26
Scotland	12

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THE tale of two stand-off halves could not have ended more conclusively: one, Stuart Barnes, had a hand in all three of the glorious tries that illuminated this hundredth contest for the Calcutta Cup at Twickenham on Saturday. The other, Craig Chalmers, ended the weekend in a hospital bed.

Their respective fortunes were critical, for when Chalmers was carried off the field after 24 minutes of the game, his forearm broken in two places, Scotland led 6-3. In the period around half-time, England carved through the reorganised Scotland midfield with what, earlier in this five nations' championship, had apparently become a blunt instrument: now the backs were razor-sharp and put the issue beyond doubt well before Scott Hastings, too, was helped off, with torn ankle ligaments.

While Scotland mourned, England exulted to see Barnes do what his restoration to the England team was intended to do.

In England's victory in the Save and Prosper international by a goal, three tries and two penalty goals to three penalties and a dropped goal, it was the second try that destroyed Scotland and showed Barnes at his brilliant best.

He had to stretch all of his 5ft 6in frame to take a high pass from Morris behind a lineout, and it was that which created the chance on England's 22. The Scottish chasers were looking high for the ball and Barnes scuttled low between them, his speed off the mark taking him clear. Jeremy Guscott, his Bath club colleague, pursued him faithfully and lanced through the cover before launching Rory Underwood towards his 36th international try.

"The partnerships who know each other work very well," Barnes said. "Jerry and I have played together a long time, and the Underwoods know each other so well."

As, indeed, they proved, when Rory provided the pass to his younger brother, Tony, who scored the third try in the left-hand corner, far from his station on the right. As selection moves to motivate individuals, as well as the team as a whole, the presence of Barnes and Tony Underwood could hardly have worked better. Rory Underwood, having received a dash of cold water in the face against Wales a month earlier, played like the magnificent finisher the previous three seasons have shown him to be.

Yet, for all the euphoria engendered by the tries, the match was not a classic: it slipped away from England in the final period in a fashion which may yet cost them the championship unless they can score a lot of points against the Irish in Dublin on March 20. France have the better points differential and are at home to Wales in their final match, which must make them favourites to lift the trophy.

The Scottish forwards deserve the highest praise for staying in the game, especially Morrison, who was outstanding. Along the way, they gave England their worst lineout return — official statistics gave Scotland a 20-17 advantage — since Australia at Twickenham in 1988, and their worst of the championship since Wales in 1985.

With their back division totally disrupted (Shiel moved to stand-off, with the replacement, Townsend, to win his first cap at centre) Scotland could only drive through the forwards. England, whose first-time tackling was of the highest quality, were happy to absorb that, even though they gave away a stack of penalties for preventing release, but they were also awarded turnover scrums which allowed them to keep play at arm's length. Scotland fed only two scrums in the second half.

But Barnes, for all his influence and even though Scotland's midfield was begging to be attacked, received possession only three times in the half-hour following Tony Underwood's try. What might have become a rout remained within the realms of respectability.

"We had the Scots where we wanted them but they did very well to restrict us at the lineout," Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, said. He also regretted the "unacceptably high" penalty count, which reduced their attacking positions. How much more, looking at Wales's subsequent results against Scotland and Ireland, must they be regretting that February day in Cardiff.

SCORERS: England: Tries: Guscott, R Underwood, T Underwood. Conversion: Webb. Penalties: Webb (3). Scotland: Penalties: G Hastings (3). Dropped goal: Chalmers.

ENGLAND: J M Webb (Bath); T Underwood (Leicester), W D C Carling (Harlequins, capt), J C Guscott (Bath), R Underwood (Leicester/RAF); S Barnes (Bath), C D Morris (Orrell); J Leonard (Harlequins), B C Moore (Harlequins), J A Probyn (Wasps), M C Teague (Moseley), M C Bayfield (Northampton), W A Dooley (Preston Grasshoppers), P J Winterbottom (Harlequins), B B Clarke (Bath).

SCOTLAND: A G Hastings (Watsonians, capt); A G Stanger (Hawick), S Hastings (Watsonians, rep: K M Logan, Stirling County), A G Shiel (Melrose), D A Stark (Boroughmuir); C M Chalmers (Melrose, rep: G P J Townsend, Gala), G Armstrong (Jed-Forest); P H Wright (Boroughmuir), K S Milne (Heriot's FP), A P Burnell (London Scottish), D J Turnbull (Hawick), A I Reed (Bath), D F Cronin (London Scottish), I R Morrison (London Scottish), G W Weir (Melrose).

Referee: B W Stirling (Ireland).



IAN STEWART

Speed off the mark: Barnes evades the tackle of Townsend to launch another England attack against Scotland at Twickenham

England's liberator deserves free rein



David Miller
At Twickenham

English rugby owes Stuart Barnes a vote of thanks, an apology and a promise: for inspiring and illuminating victory over Scotland, for having delayed so long in giving him the chance, and to give him free rein for the remainder of his career so long as his melody lasts.

It would be difficult to imagine an international debut potentially more nerve-racking. Given eight years of controversial rejection, the 30-year-old Bath stand-off half was subjected to the equivalent of a debut, and what a minor triumph he achieved. It could not be a major triumph, because, without an Aladdin's touch from him or the exhilarating running from Guscott and the Underwoods that he released, it was a grinding and forgettable match.

For Barnes, however, it will be remembered for some while. He brought to what has been for three years a successful, even a feared, side in its forward power-play, those flights of fancy that are the stuff of sport. To a side that had occasionally laboured like a Caliban, Barnes introduced the whimsy of Puck.

To be required to sit 23 times on the bench, then suddenly to be asked to replace not only the man for so long responsible for your banishment to the international periphery but also the player whose measured style was almost definitive of the regime of Cooke and Carling, and to do it at 30, was almost cruel.

Prove to the nation, they implied, and to the 54,000 at Twickenham, to your colleagues at Bath and to yourself, that the selectors have been wrong all these years. Oh, and do it in a downbeat team that has just dashed a third grand slam and which critics are saying is too old in four or five positions and will not play again after this season. And do it against the team that trounced the side that ended England's unbeaten run. Best of luck, son.

The pressure on Barnes was, in a word, immense. He was in a comparable position, different yet as exposed, to that of Peter Bonetti being asked to keep goal for England in the World Cup 23 years ago in Mexico in place of regular, trusted, unflappable Gordon Banks. And look what happened then.

Yet take a look at Barnes. At 5ft 6in and 12½ stone, he is built like a pocket battleship, with a low centre of gravity and the powerful squat legs that give instantaneous acceleration around the side of the scrum, through a gap half a yard wide. His chin and his lower lip protrude in a pugnacious way. To watch him move is to see a man instinctively knowing what he is doing.

He did not leave Scotland long in much doubt, turning the match England's way within minutes of Scotland losing, critically, the tenacious Chalmers at stand-off half after 24 minutes. Yet even within the first ten minutes, Barnes had been fizzing passes around with the imaginative abandon of appreciative Greeks throwing plates at a bouzouki nightclub. No wonder he was regarded as a marvel when an immigrant schoolboy in Wales.

Until Barnes intervened, Scotland had looked marginally the better side and led 6-3, though over the course of the match they would fail to exploit the huge amount of ball they won at lineout.

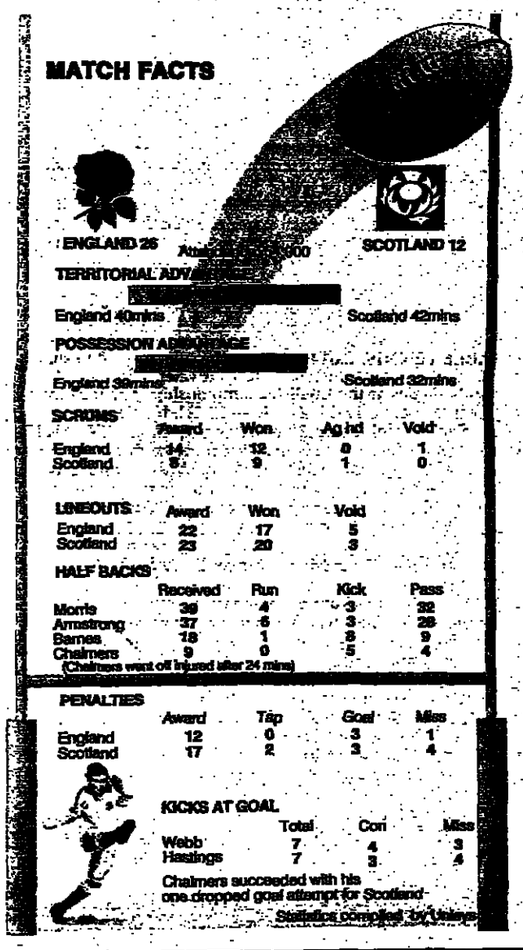
Ido not see every match England play, but seldom in the past three seasons has there been as many three-quarter movements in one match that lifted you from your seat. Watching England, even in the World Cup run, has been rather like following the manual in CCF days to dismantling and reassembling the .303 rifle: exact, efficient but rather tedious.

Now, thanks to the spontaneous whim of Barnes, we were suddenly reminded that England have out there on the park two of the finest runners ever in Guscott and Rory Underwood. What a pleasure it now was to see them unleashed.

It is ungracious to be retrospectively critical of Rob Andrew, because he was neither particularly at fault in the Welsh defeat nor anything but consistent during his five-year reign as ringmaster of England's rise and rise. He is a more accurate kicker than Barnes and, as in the disappointing World Cup final, was mostly playing according to agreed strategy. For him and Hunter to have been the scapegoats for Underwood's single, singular error at Cardiff Arms Park was, to many minds, extreme.

The fact is, however, that the change worked: in one match, against a Scottish team seriously disrupted by the loss of their own play-maker. Whether England will in the long run be a better team with Barnes, or whether they will become more like the French — lovely to watch when they win but you can never be sure — remains to be discovered. For this one day, every English supporter went home happy.

MATCH FACTS



ENGLAND 26 — SCOTLAND 12

Attendance: 54,000

TERRITORIAL ADVANTAGE
England 40mins — Scotland 42mins

POSSESSION ADVANTAGE
England 39mins — Scotland 32mins

SCRUMS

	Award	Won	Ag hd	Void
England	14	12	0	1
Scotland	5	9	1	0

LINEOUTS

	Award	Won	Void
England	22	17	5
Scotland	23	20	3

HALF BACKS

	Received	Run	Kick	Pass
Morris	39	4	3	32
Armstrong	37	6	3	28
Barnes	18	1	8	9
Chalmers	9	0	5	4

(Chalmers went off injured after 24 mins)

PENALTIES

	Award	Tap	Goal	Miss
England	12	0	3	1
Scotland	17	2	3	4

KICKS AT GOAL

	Total	Con	Miss
Webb	7	4	3
Hastings	7	3	4

Chalmers succeeded with his one dropped goal attempt for Scotland

Statistics compiled by Unisys

Elwood's points help to give Irish a taste of victory again



Gerald Davies laments the latest and most shocking reverse for Welsh rugby, Saturday's 19-14 defeat by Ireland at Cardiff Arms Park

Cardiff Arms Park is establishing itself as Ireland's adopted home. Perhaps, as an Irishman commented afterwards, they should play all their fixtures there. The place, unlike their own Lansdowne Road, seems to guarantee them a win. When they return to Cardiff two years after Saturday's 19-14 win over Wales, it is Ireland who will defend a record of not having lost at the ground for 12 years.

A more straightforward pleasure for the Irish is that their victory against a ramshackle Welsh team by a goal, three penalties and a drop goal to a try and three penalties has halted a sequence in the five nations' championship going back to 1990, when they last tasted victory. That was, once more, against the hapless Welsh.

But it was a game of little class. Elwood, who collected 11 points on his first appearance, and Bradley, criticised of late but returned to form here, were the architects of the win. They kept things simple by ensuring that their kicks turned the Welsh. They have, as Noel Murphy, their manager, mentioned afterwards, made good progress since their first game of the season, particularly in defence.

Galwey and Johns, players of no fixed position, roaming as they have done in their careers between No. 8 and lock, were more comfortable than the more settled, if largely impotent, Welsh pair in the lineout. Robinson had a fine match.

Yet, for all their endeavour, the Irish could well have afforded, after having withstood the early pressure, to wait and allow the Welsh themselves to plot their own downfall. Apart from that first 15 minutes when Wales forced Ireland into defence close to their line, it became a series of inaccuracies and miscalculation. After Jenkins had missed a penalty — he was to miss another five — and Walker, chasing Rayer's kick, was pipped for the touchdown, the series of scrums and lineouts that followed indicated a paucity of ideas, and a penchant for error in judgment and skills.

This is potentially the most damaging of any of the recent Welsh performances. How so? Did not New Zealand and Australia score a half-century of points? This was worse because, for one thing, there had been an acceptance, however tacit, that Welsh rugby was in such poor state that, having hit rock bottom, the only way thereafter was up. Last season had seen some progress. There was optimism.

In the games against Australia and New Zealand, there were a few saving graces. Individual players may have done well under the onslaught, having resisted during the hopelessly lost cause. With no ball to play with, what could talented players like Jonathan Davies, or Mark Ring, or Robert Jones, do and, at the time, Emyr Lewis, too? Given better conditions, these players might flourish.

And in these cases, Wales were after all playing the world champions. Ireland, with the greatest respect, could not hope to exert any kind of Antipodean power. Ireland were simply grabbing at whatever they could get.

Wales need to reach out for their comfort blanket once more. They have much need of it. But if the players cannot expect much sympathy, Bob Norster and Alan Davies, the manager and coach, do.

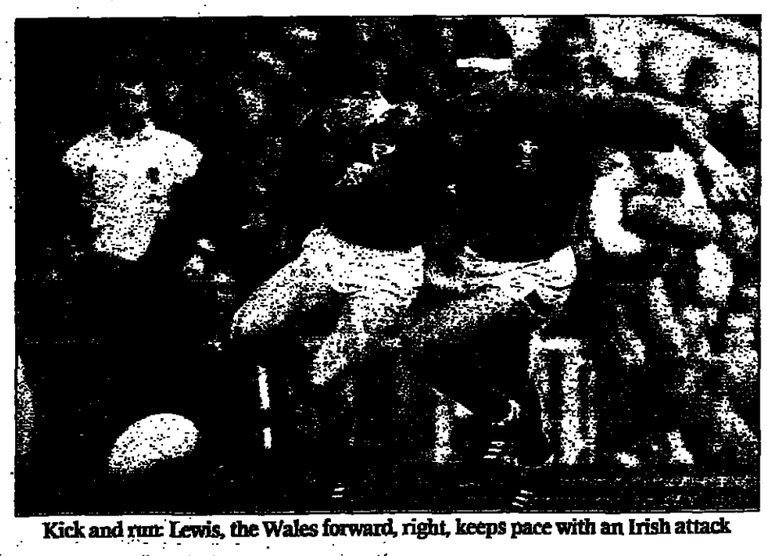
The lack of imagination was such on Saturday that players, forwards and backs alike, simply dropped their shoulders and charged at the opposition, rather than avoid them. This mystified Davies as much as everyone else. "With possession, we want the players to play the ball *before* contact." From what was seen, this simple virtue is something the players chose to ignore.

Ireland coped with these misdirected runs and profited as Wales presented them with the ball, and served a lesson on how to keep the ball alive, as they did when they scored their try.

Jenkins had kicked a penalty, Clarke a dropped goal, before Elwood carved an opening which led to Robinson's try and which the stand-off half converted. He and Jenkins exchanged penalties before and after the interval.

The only spark of real class came from Ieuan Evans, the Wales captain, who ran with barely inches to manouevre on the touchline for a glorious try. It was an example of intuitive skill which the rest of his team failed to follow. Elwood's final penalty settled the scoring.

But if Wales can feel miserable with this performance, how much more miserable must England continue to feel in contemplating the prize that has eluded them?



Kick and run: Lewis, the Wales forward, right, keeps pace with an Irish attack

SCORERS: Wales: Try: I Evans; Penalties: Jenkins (3). Ireland: Try: Robinson; Conversion: Elwood; Penalties: E Elwood (3); Dropped goal: Clarke.

WALES: M A Rayer (Cardiff); I C Evans (Llanelli, capt; rep: A Clement, Swansea), M R Hall (Cardiff), I S Gibbs (Swansea), N Walker (Cardiff); N R Jenkins (Pontypridd), R N Jones (Swansea); R L Evans (Llanelli), N Mask (Pontypool), H Williams-Jones (Sizaf/ Wales Police), E W Lewis (Llanelli), G O Llewellyn (Neath), A H Copsey (Llanelli), R E Webster (Swansea), S Davies (Swansea).

IRELAND: C P Clarke (Terenure College); R Wallace (Garryowen), V J G Cunningham (St Mary's College), P P A Danaher (Garryowen), S P Geoghegan (London Irish); E Elwood (Lansdowne), M T Bradley (Cork Constitution, capt); N J Popplewell (Greystones), T J Kingston (Dolphin), P M Clohessy (Young Munster), P T J O'Hara (Cork Constitution), P S Johns (Dungannon), M J Galwey (Blackrock College), W D McBride (Malone), B Robinson (Shannon).

Referee: A R MacNeill (Aus).

MATCH FACTS



WALES 14 — IRELAND 19

Attendance: 51,000

TERRITORIAL ADVANTAGE
Wales 44mins — Ireland 44mins

POSSESSION ADVANTAGE
Wales 40mins — Ireland 32mins

SCRUMS

	Award	Won	Ag hd	Void
Wales	15	15	0	3
Ireland	15	11	0	1

LINEOUTS

	Award	Won	Void
Wales	18	14	2
Ireland	23	17	6

HALF BACKS

	Received	Run	Kick	Pass
Jones	42	2	6	34
Bradley	33	1	3	29
Jenkins	21	0	5	14
Elwood	20	1	16	3

PENALTIES

	Award	Tap	Goal	Miss
Wales	18	4	3	6
Ireland	7	0	3	0

KICKS AT GOAL

	Total	Con	Miss
Jenkins	10	3	7
Elwood	4	4	0

Clarke succeeded with a dropped goal attempt for Ireland and Elwood failed with one

Statistics compiled by Unisys

Adams returns on cue for predictable Arsenal's strolling players


Adams: headed equaliser

Ipswich Town 2
Arsenal 4

By Michael Henderson

IMAGINE, this morning, a middle-aged man sitting down at his desk in North London and writing the following letter. "Dear Jim, could you fix it for me so that the public begin to enjoy watching the football club I manage? We have always been very successful but nobody seems to like us much. Anxious George, Highbury."

By return of post he might receive a tart reply. "Dear George, in the past I have got elephants to jump through hoops, and tried to get cows to straddle the moon, but what you are asking is beyond even my compass. Yours in sport, JS."

Arsenal, guided by George Graham, their manager, are through to the semi-finals of the FA Cup again. So what? Like *The Mousetrap*, they go on from year to year with each change of cast unable to transcend the predictability of performances which are never less than professional. To beat an Ipswich side in an eventful game of little obvious quality, professionalism proved good enough. These players rarely forget their lines.

Arsenal may at present be the nearest team to Wembley, but their football will always be the furthest from Arcadia. As Danny Blanchflower once noted, football clubs are bound by traditions that are hard to escape. Thus, Arsenal lack the success of Liverpool, the glory of Manchester United and the residual affection enjoyed by Tottenham because, however many gifted players they have, the collective impression is of numbing pedestrianism.

If Arsenal were now in Nottingham Forest's position, perched on the ledge of the Premier League, most people would be urging them to jump. Everything about them is safe, measured and known. Without some mystery, football, like many more important things in life, tends to lose a bit of appeal.

FA CUP

Nevertheless, they are on course for two Wembley finals, propelled by the goals of Ian Wright, whose second-half penalty was his eighth goal in the competition and fiftieth for the club. It gave Arsenal, who had fallen behind to a scrambled goal from Chris Kiwomya, a lead they had doubled before the whistle.

Their best player was Tony Adams, who, having missed the two games last week in embarrassing circumstances, returned to the centre of the defence looking like Captain Pugwash after a night on the tiles. Without him they might have shipped three goals before half-time and would certainly not have gone in level.

"Tony's record speaks for itself," Graham said, as the magistrates' courts and casualty wards of Essex can confirm. Andy Linighan, Adams's occasional partner, was the most relieved to welcome the captain back. In the first half he was so often at sea his team-mates were ready to send out a lifeboat, before Adams headed his first goal of the season from Merson's free kick in the 29th minute — a minute for every stitch in his bandaged forehead.

Linighan should have been off before then, escaping scot-free when he wrestled Kiwomya to the turf in the twelfth minute. That foul robbed the Ipswich striker of a run at goal five minutes before he shot through a thicket of bodies following a corner from Guentchev. Thereafter, he was inert.

Call it inexperience, or just one of those days, but Ipswich surrendered the match before the hour. Wark did more than anyone to rally them, so it was unfortunate that his mistimed tackle on Wright led to the penalty. Whelan, harried by Wright, put through his own goal and Campbell came on to slip a late fourth goal after Guentchev had squeezed a second for Ipswich.

Even on his better-behaved days, Wright seems to be at odds with the world. Here he berated a linesman over some trivial matter when Arsenal were two goals clear and it is increasingly hard to find any mark of grace in his demeanour. This does not make him unique among footballers but as the man leading Arsenal's charge to Wembley in two cups, it renders him more conspicuous. It's rather sad.

IPSWICH TOWN: C Baker, G Johnson, N Thompson (sub: P Goddard), M Stockwell, J Wark, D Linighan, G Williams, B Guentchev, P Whelan, J Dozzell, C Kiwomya.
ARSENAL: D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, P Davis, A Linighan, A Adams, J Carter (sub: D Hillier), I Wright, A Smith (sub: K Campbell), P Merson, S Morrow.
Referee: A Wilkie.

Rovers waste Ripley's all-round qualities

Blackburn Rovers 0
Sheffield United 0

By Louise Taylor

THE signing of Stuart Ripley last summer probably represented Kenny Dalglish's second best buy as manager of Blackburn Rovers. If Dalglish's recruitment of Alan Shearer has proved his most inspired transfer deal at Ewood Park, the acquisition of Ripley for £1.2 million from Middlesbrough was almost as astute.

The blond winger created many of the 22 goals scored by Shearer before a knee injury sustained on Boxing Day ruled out the centre forward for the remainder of the season. With Shearer on the sidelines, the drab draw with Sheffield United in the sixth round of the FA Cup on Saturday would have been even worse had it not been for the 25-year-old Ripley.

Flitting from the left to his preferred right wing, a ripple of anticipation ran through the crowd whenever he received the ball. Posing more of a threat than Newell or Wegerle — Blackburn's central strikers — he gave Whitehouse a thorough workout.

Yet without Shearer in the middle to meet his crosses, Ripley was wasted. Probably the Rovers player who has lost most by Shearer's absence — had the pair continued in tandem at Blackburn, Graham Taylor, exasperated by John Barnes, might have experimented with the partnership at England level — Ripley would be well advised to cut his losses by taking over the No. 9 shirt.

After the match, Dalglish wore the look of a manager who does not know where his next goal is coming from but, in switching Ripley to centreforward, he could find an instant solution. Unusually for a winger, Ripley possesses not only exceptional pace but also rare power.

At 5ft 11in and 12½ stone, his physique permits him to mix it with the meanest defenders. On occasions at Middlesbrough, he played centre forward to useful effect and, significantly, Gary Pallister — now a Manchester United and England centre half — loathed marking him in training.

A No. 9 Ripley might have remained, but for the strain it would have imposed on suspect hamstrings that forced him to miss many Middlesbrough matches. He also prefers playing on the right and has a tendency to drift in that direction, something he would need to curb as a centre forward.

The hamstring injuries have been eradicated by treatment at a clinic in London and playing through the middle should not mean undue physical demands.

While Newell laboured throughout, Ripley demonstrated his poise, power and precision in serving up the best moment. In the twentieth minute he shrugged off Whitehouse, completed the tightest of turns and delivered a curling left-foot shot that whistled inches wide of the far post. Not bad for a player who favours his right foot.

But would Ripley score goals in Shearer's stead? Eleven from wide is a creditable tally this season and there could be no better time to answer those critics who claim that his finishing sometimes lets him down. With Deane, Sheffield's most dangerous forward, suspended when the teams replay at Bramall Lane on Wednesday week, Ripley looks the obvious match-winner.


Ripley: pace and power

BLACKBURN ROVERS: R Mimms, D May, A Dobson, T Sherwood, C Hendry, K Moran, S Ripley, P Anderson (sub: M Atkins), R Wegerle, M Newell, J Wilcox.
SHEFFIELD UNITED: A Kelly, P Gage, D Whitehouse (sub: P Beesley), J Hoyland, S Gayle, J Pemberton, P Garrett (sub: A Cork), S Hartford, I Bryson, B Deane, G Hodgson.
Referee: P Durkin.

No hiding place from harsh realities in Liverpool


Hughes turns away in triumph after scoring the first of the goals that took Manchester United back to the top of the Premier League at Anfield on Saturday



Simon Barnes observes a broken silence at Anfield as the faithful search in vain for consolation after recent tragedies in the city

They held a minute's silence for the last person to die as a result of the Hillsborough stadium disaster at Anfield on Saturday, before Liverpool played Manchester United. Tony Bland, victim and *cause célèbre*, lived in what doctors described as a "persistent vegetative state" for the past four years. Artificial feeding was stopped on February 22; Bland died of kidney failure. He was 22.

I have not been to Anfield since the strange, haunted Sunday that followed the Hillsborough disaster. Anfield will always feel strange to me, and to the many thousands of others who filed into the place that day in a state of bewildered mourning.

A minute's silence — a form of godless prayer invented for the needs of the late twentieth century — is always a dangerous experiment at football matches. Its main advantage is that it allows one to hear individual obscenities with greater clarity than usual. The United fans filled the silence with naughty words, ensuring that this match began in bitter mood.

It was, in truth, a deeply bitter occasion. How could it be else? This oddly un-English, doom-prone city has always clung to the comfort of its footballing excellence, but the excellence was being taken apart before their eyes. Sport is trivial, but triviality is its great strength. In Liverpool, football — footballing excellence — has been a source of both comfort and strength in the hardest of times. And times have been unendingly hard. Liverpool has known rioting, the stadium disasters of Heysel and Hillsborough, and the relentless grinding of poverty and unemployment: this is a city that has been marginalised. But always there was football.

The latest, the saddest and the most bewildering event to take place in this city is the horrifying tale of James Bulger. There have been banners of sympathy for the Bulgers at Liverpool matches, just as there was a banner in memory of Bland yesterday. This sort of thing has always been Liverpool's way. Such links between community and football club are alien to Londoners, as they are to most outsiders. But alas, the additional comfort of footballing success was gone.

Liverpool have two local rivals. With Everton, their city neighbours, they have always shared a joshing, brotherly amiability in battle. But the rivalry with Manchester United is as bitter as any in football: hence the United fans' delighted sacrilege during the minute's silence.

Has the rivalry ever been as bitter as it was on Saturday? United won 2-1, and now stand high on the top of the Premier league, championship favourites. Liverpool are now 15th, and unthinkably remain relegation candidates.

Relegation? Liverpool? A short while ago, it seemed that the stars would start from their courses and the sun refuse to rise before such a thing could occur, so smoothly did Liverpool pass from one triumph to another, from one manager to the next.

Then came the collapse of Kenny Dalglish, and the arrival of a man with a moustache. I had never felt that moustaches were really Liverpool, and I think I have been proved right.

Graeme Souness arrived at the club where he had performed so ably as player, and he was eager — desperate to make his mark. Had he asked me for a word of advice before starting to work, I would have said: "Graeme old chap, if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

But Souness did his best to improve on the Liverpool system of excellence, with the results we now see. Saturday revealed the despair within the side. After a breezy opening spell, Liverpool suffered a sudden attack of corporate fatalism: a shared failure of belief.

And after that, it became United's day. Not even a truly pretty goal from Rush — hit waist-high on the turn, a goal straight from the great days — could re-ignite Liverpool. Simple goals from Hughes and McClair were ample for United's comfortable victory.

United had the impermiability that was once Liverpool's; United had the bite that was once Liverpool's. Above all, United had the sense of destiny that Liverpool no longer possess.

The Anfield crowd, one used to purring, were lost not so much in anger as pain and bewilderment. Surely this cannot be happening? Surely there is a fault in reality. They sang "You'll never walk alone" at the start, Anfield's great godless hymn, but before the end, the crowd was filing out looking at the floor.

I have often wondered what this song means, and why it is so important to Liverpool Football Club and to Liverpool, the city. The burden of the song seems to be that life is really pretty terrible, and that the only thing that makes things bearable is companionship/community/family.

Liverpool, afflicted, it seems, with the greatest horrors and miseries that this country can offer, from the relentless difficulties of everyday life to the worst of nightmares, has always enjoyed the trivial, but far from negligible comfort of its footballing excellence. Such things have made the storms more tolerable.

In a troubled and changing world, the simple joys and complex excellence of Liverpool Football Club have given comfort and good cheer to those who have turned to it.

But sport is too fragile, too trivial a thing to bear such a weight. What is amazing is not Liverpool's fall, but the way the club has managed to carry such a burden for so long. But now the spell has been broken by the man with the moustache: one wonders if it will ever be recast.

THE TIMES TABLE OF THE FA PREMIER LEAGUE

Weekly change		P	Pts	Goal diff	W	(H-A)	D	(H-A)	L	(H-A)	For	(H-A)	Agt	(H-A)	Recent form
1	(+1) Manchester Utd	31	60	+25	17	(11-6)	9	(3-6)	5	(2-3)	49	(30-19)	24	(11-13)	lwdwww
2	(-1) Aston Villa	31	59	+17	17	(11-6)	8	(3-5)	6	(2-4)	48	(31-17)	31	(14-17)	lwlwww
3	(0) Norwich	31	53	-2	15	(9-6)	8	(5-2)	8	(1-7)	44	(23-21)	46	(14-32)	wlwddl
4	(+2) QPR	31	47	+7	13	(8-5)	8	(5-3)	10	(3-7)	44	(31-13)	37	(22-15)	ddwllw
5	(-1) Sheffield Wed	30	46	+6	12	(7-5)	10	(5-5)	8	(3-5)	40	(23-17)	34	(18-16)	wwwwdl
6	(-4) Coventry	32	46	+4	12	(6-6)	10	(3-7)	10	(7-3)	45	(23-22)	41	(19-22)	lwldwl
7	(-2) Blackburn	30	45	+11	12	(9-3)	9	(2-7)	9	(4-5)	43	(27-16)	32	(15-17)	llwdl
8	(-1) Ipswich	31	44	+3	10	(6-4)	14	(7-7)	7	(2-5)	37	(22-15)	34	(16-18)	wldwl
9	(-1) Tottenham	31	44	-8	12	(8-4)	8	(4-4)	11	(4-7)	39	(26-13)	47	(19-28)	wwwwl
10	(-1) Manchester City	30	43	+9	12	(5-7)	7	(4-3)	11	(5-8)	43	(21-22)	34	(16-18)	wwdllw
11	(+1) Southampton	32	42	0	11	(8-3)	9	(5-4)	12	(3-9)	40	(24-16)	40	(15-25)	lwwlww
12	(-1) Arsenal	30	40	0	11	(6-5)	7	(4-3)	12	(5-7)	27	(16-11)	27	(12-15)	llwdld
13	(+1) Chelsea	31	40	-5	10	(5-5)	10	(6-4)	11	(5-6)	33	(16-17)	38	(17-21)	lldllw
14	(-1) Leeds	31	39	-4	10	(10-0)	9	(5-4)	12	(1-11)	41	(32-9)	45	(13-32)	ldwldw
15	(+3) Everton	32	39	-6	11	(5-6)	6	(5-1)	15	(6-8)	36	(17-19)	42	(20-22)	llddww
16	(-1) Liverpool	30	36	-2	9	(7-2)	9	(4-5)	12	(4-8)	40	(26-14)	42	(16-26)	ddlddl
17	(-1) Wimbledon	31	36	-3	9	(5-4)	9	(4-5)	13	(7-6)	36	(21-15)	39	(21-18)	wwwwll
18	(+1) Crystal Palace	31	35	-10	8	(4-4)	11	(6-5)	12	(5-7)	37	(17-20)	47	(16-29)	lwwldd
19	(+1) Sheffield Utd	31	34	-4	9	(8-1)	7	(5-2)	15	(2-13)	37	(25-12)	41	(10-31)	lwlwlw
20	(+1) Middlesbrough	31	33	-14	8	(6-2)	9	(4-5)	14	(5-9)	38	(22-16)	52	(17-35)	wlllw
21	(-2) Nottm Forest	30	32	-9	8	(5-3)	8	(3-5)	14	(7-7)	30	(13-17)	39	(14-25)	lwdwwld
22	(0) Oldham	30	28	-15	7	(6-1)	7	(3-4)	16	(5-11)	40	(25-15)	55	(19-36)	lwlld

TRANSFERS: Robert Rosario (Nottm Forest) from Coventry, £400,000; Michael Lake (Wrexham) from Sheffield Utd, £50,000; Imre Varadi (Rotherham) from Leeds, free. LOANS: Richard Crisp (Aston Villa) to Scunthorpe.

Jess injury blow to Scotland

SIX weeks before Scotland's World Cup qualifying game against Portugal in Lisbon there has already been a serious setback for the Scottish coach, Andy Roxburgh (Roddy Forsyth writes).

He had hoped to field the exciting young Aberdeen forward, Eoin Jess, but on Saturday Jess broke an ankle in the drawn Scottish Cup quarter-final tie against Clydebank at Pittodrie and will be out for the rest of the season.

Aberdeen went ahead with a Shearer penalty but Clydebank, of the first division, equalised through McIntosh.

Winners of the replay will face Hibernian in the semi-final on April 3. Rangers, comfortable 3-0 winners over Arbroath, will meet Heart of Midlothian, who beat Falkirk 2-0, in the other semi-final tie. Venues are expected to be decided today.

SEMI-FINAL DRAW: Rangers v Hearts; Hibernian v Aberdeen or Clydebank.

Ward's return gives Everton fans cause for optimism

Coventry City 0
Everton 1

By Keith Pike

THE green shoots of Everton's recovery, first spotted on Wednesday in their victory over Blackburn Rovers, blossomed in the Highfield Road sunshine yesterday as they scored a deserved victory over Coventry City.

The depth of the football recession on Merseyside has been felt as keenly at Goodison Park as it has been at Anfield, even if Liverpool's troubles have inevitably taken prominence. The three points Howard Kendall's team gained yesterday, thanks to Mark Ward's crisply-taken volley, lifted Everton two places up the Premier League table to fifteenth, six points clear of the relegation zone and above the men from Anfield. If they can maintain that advantage until May, their supporters will take more heart from a poor season than had looked likely.

It is probably no coincidence that Everton's revival has coincided with the return of Ward, who has spent six frustrating months on the sideline as he recovered from a broken leg. A neat and thoughtful flank player, if sometimes too combative for his own good, his ability to link with Everton's diminutive strike force of Beardsley and Cottee was a feature of this match.

His reputation for finishing, too, has been well earned, but he cannot have struck many sweeter volleys than the one which flew past Ogrizovic's left hand in the eighth minute after Watson had headed on Ablett's free kick.

Had Ebbrell show the same eye for goal, Everton would have won handsomely. Twice Ebbrell was put into good positions by Everton's incisive approach play, and twice he failed to find the target. Beardsley, with an instinctive near-post header midway through the second half, was more accurate, but Ogrizovic responded magnificently.

Coventry would have gone fourth had they won this game, which only serves to strengthen the feeling that mediocrity is the Premier League byword this season. From perhaps four-fifths of the possession, they created half the chances Everton did, and when they did find a way through Southall was at his best to deny them, tipping over brilliantly from Pearce and saving less spectacularly from Gynn.

COVENTRY CITY: S Ogrizovic; B Borrows, P Babb, P Atherton, A Pearce, J Williams, P Ndlovu, M Gynn (sub: K Gallacher), L McGrath, M Quinn, S Flynn.
EVERTON: N Southall; M Jackson, K Sansom, I Snodin (sub: P Radosavaljic), D Watson, G Ablett, M Ward, P Beardsley, A Cottee, B Horne, J Ebbrell.
Referee: D Ellaray.

☐ Les Ferdinand ended an eight-match drought on Saturday, and might have put paid to Norwich City's unlikely challenge for the championship. The Queens Park Rangers striker, who marked his England debut against San Marino last month with a goal, scored twice in a 3-1 victory at Loftus Road which lifted Rangers to fourth and leaves Norwich seven points adrift of the leaders, Manchester United.

Andy Saville ended Hartlepool United's record-breaking goalless sequence of 13 games with the strike which earned a point against Blackpool. The second division side had gone 1,227 minutes without a goal since Saville's winner against Crystal Palace in the FA Cup on January 2.

England open with 1-1 draw against South Korea in world championship

Youth has chance to cure football's ills

Rob Hughes reports on the encouraging opening of the world youth championship in Melbourne



No way past: Sang-Soo Yoo, of South Korea, displays forceful use of the elbow to block Barmby, of England, in the 1-1 draw in Melbourne

For those concerned with either the youth of the world or the state of football, I offer today, from the other side of the world, the belief that the old game is reinventing itself as primarily an event that is big enough to withstand all the corrupting nonsense of those who have tried to turn it into a gigantic television industry.

Whatever the FA Cup has done to raise spirits, the eternal charm of football is working here in a melting pot of nationalities that is the seventh world youth championship. We are watching the emergence of the next generation of players.

England's part has so far been to draw 1-1 with South Korea in the Melbourne Olympic Park, a game that proved only that the mother country still has enough spirit about her, and enough strength in the air, to refuse to lie down when a goal behind.

But in the same stadium, half an hour later, the sport was hijacked by, of all people, the Americans. With captivating innocence, playing the ball along the ground, their college boys scored six times without reply against Turkey, the European Under-20 champions. If it were tennis, you might believe it.

At least there is a good, old-fashioned English accent at the helm of this startling surprise by the world's rookie nation. The coach to the United States is Bobby Howe, now 47, but a player under Ron Greenwood at West Ham United before he emigrated 16 years ago.

Not only a player, a colleague of Bobby Moore, and the sentiment concerning his death was carried here in the black arm-bands of England and the great respect extended by all the 16 competing nations.

Think of it: a whole world gathering to play at some arbitrary age limit that lies between adolescence and manhood. To see them in so many shapes and guises, with so many ethnic mixes even within the national colours they now wear, is to defy the description youth.

In England's team there is Chris Bart-Williams, born in Freetown, Sierra Leone, raised from the age of four in London and, by 16, such a study in compacted muscle that Trevor Francis paid the equivalent of £500,000. Francis admitted that to look at the body was simply to disbelieve the age on the birth certificate.

There has been plenty of that in connection with this tournament. While England took such an age to deign to enter until Fifa talked of ostracism for a backward attitude, countries like Mexico and Italy had been caught falsifying the passports to enter over-aged players.

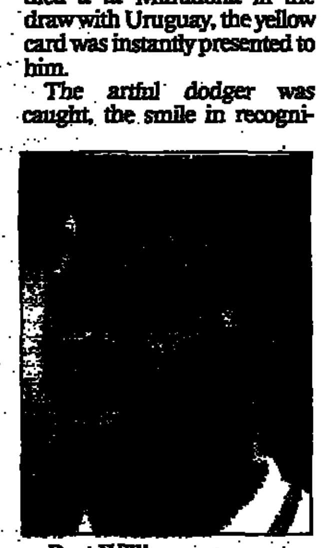
Portugal, the world champions at this age group, had to leave two leading performers behind after suggestions that they, too, had tampered with the facts. They have since fought the most dispiriting battle of the championship so far, losing to goal in the final seconds against a German side that appears to have come to Australia intent on hacking its way to success.

Whether the Germans, ironically coached by that most elegant of players, Rainer Bonhof, get away with it is highly doubtful. Fifa has woken up to the fact that the game was destroying its own appeal by allowing cheating — the players who pretend injury and men who will not step back ten yards.

The star so far of this tournament, in which yellow cards are flourished for the merest indiscretion, has been the Ghanaian, Nai Lamptey. He moves with such speed and indefinable trickery that defenders may as well try to trap him in a fisherman's web.

Yet Lamptey, not quite 18, is as profligate with the chances he conjures up as so many of the Africans. A man in the sense of physique, he retains a childlike approach to reinventing the game. He fantasises and, when he cheekily handled *a la* Maradona in the draw with Uruguay, the yellow card was instantly presented to him.

The artful dodger was caught, the smile in recogni-



Bart-Williams: compact

tion was pure child, and perhaps we thought of Pele, who throughout his career charmed the game precisely because he had the looks and manner of manhood but the soul of an infant.

What is happening here in Sydney, Brisbane, Canberra and Melbourne is an attempt to put right at "junior" level the sins that virtually ground the last World Cup among so-called men to a halt. Fifa realises it cannot inflict corrupted football of the 1990 style into the United States in 1994 and expect either to profit or to persuade the Americans that the game is entertainment.

How interesting, then, that the first heavy scorers of this authoritarian crackdown in another fledgling football outpost should be the college boys under Howe.

A few hours before giving his team talk, and by chance, Howe met David Burnside, the England Under-20 coach. Howe admitted that his knowledge of Turkey was scant. Burnside marked his card and suggested that Turkey had an audacious attitude of leaving three players in attack even when defending corners and free-kicks.

For 20 minutes, they discussed whether the response to it was to attack in kind or, like chessmasters across the table, to stifle such initiative. Howe gave little away. "With my team, if I tell them the strength of the opposition, they are likely to react as if the opposition has come down from Mars," he said.

Whatever he said, events overtook him. The Turkish side were playing as if Melbourne was Ismir. This southern city is an enclave of tens of thousands of immigrants from Greece, Macedonia and, above all, Turkey.

For months while the young Turkish team was in the kind of training that will never conceivably be granted to England players, the pressure on them to fulfil expectation grew into a burden. And how were they to know that the first American to undo them with a stunning free kick would be called Imad Baba, born and bred a Texan but with the looks that suggest he is the son of a Palestinian.

But just as England had been merely the warm-up act for the United States, so Baba merely opened the door. Through it, with three breathtaking goals, slalomed Chris Faklaris, a 6ft 3in bean-pole from Atlanta. The first hat-trick of these finals to an all-American boy.

Tomorrow, he and the United States come up against England. It is 43 years since the last astounding American result in world football. They beat England in a World Cup and among the players was Walter Bahr, who happens now to be the head of the United States delegation.

With all the fine players that have drawn us here to this tournament, I suspect a young fellow called Nick Barmby, of Tottenham Hotspur, will persuade the new country that those who invented the game still have some reborn talent to counter with.

SOUTH KOREA: Hae-woon Kim; Sang-Soo Yoo, Jin-Win Kim, Cheol Pak, Dae-Ui Kim, Ho-Seong Lee, Yong-Soo Choi, Hyun-Doo Cho, Sung-Yong Choi, Jun-Ho Cho, Kyung-Soo Lee (sub: Kyung Jun Jeon).

ENGLAND: D Watson (Barnsley); S Watson (Newcastle United), A Myers (Chelsea), J Pollock (Middlesbrough), I Pearce (Chelsea), A Hughes (Crewe Alexandra), C Bart-Williams (Sheffield Wednesday), D Casley (Tottenham Hotspur), N Barmby (Tottenham Hotspur), I Selley (Arsenal; sub: J Joachim, Leicester), A Thompson (Newcastle United).

RESULTS: Group A: Australia 2, Colombia 1, Russia 2, Cameroon 0. Group B: Portugal 0, Germany 1; Uruguay 1, Ghana 1. Group C: South Korea 1, England 1; Turkey 0, United States 6. Group D: Brazil 0, Saudi Arabia 0; Mexico 3, Norway 0.

Family mourns favourite son with poignant celebration



Andrew Longmore feels the force of the emotions aroused at Upton Park as the West Ham faithful pay moving tribute to Bobby Moore

EVERYBODY else had said their piece. Now it was the turn of the West Ham United faithful to salute Bobby Moore. They did so with a quiet and robust dignity, reflecting the qualities of the man they were mourning. But it was a difficult day for everybody.

For Billy Bonds, the West Ham manager, and his assistant, Harry Redknapp, whose secondary job was to extricate three points from the tangle of emotions. For the players, aware that forces were at work way above the traditional jargon of a Saturday afternoon. Most of all, for Moore's family, who met the affection and misery of a community without flinching.

As the row of scarves, flowers and messages, which cover the main gates and stretch as far as the club offices, show so memorably, Upton Park was Moore's other home and West Ham's biggest crowd of the season filed into the ground, attracted by the magnetism of their most famous son. Wolverhampton Wanderers, an historic club fully able to appreciate the poignancy of the occasion, played its part too.

The Wolves supporters laid a wreath in the centre circle, as the Sunderland fans had at Roker Park the previous week, and kept their peace during the minute's silence before the match. The programme was dedicated to "a legend".

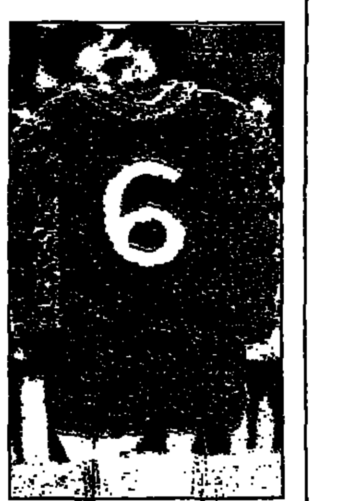
The No. 6 shirt, made his own by Moore through 642 matches in the claret and blue, was retired for the day — Bishop wore No. 12 — and, whichever way you turned, familiar faces loomed out of a golden age: Martin Peters, Geoff Hurst, Ronnie Boyce, Ron Greenwood.

"We felt as though we were back as West Ham players, part of the family again," Peters said. "It is heart-wrenching to see the support, not just from West Ham fans but from all over the country," Hurst said. "This was a chance for West Ham to pay its respects."

From the giant replica of the No. 6 shirt placed in the centre circle before the match to the commentary of Moore lifting the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1965, no detail was spared.

In the midst of it all, there was a football match and an important one for West Ham's chances of promotion to the Premier League. That they managed to consolidate their position behind Newcastle United at the top of the Barclays League first division with a 3-1 victory was a tribute to their ability to win when not playing at their best, and to the obliging defensive frailties of the visitors.

Wolves, desperate to enhance their own push towards the play-offs, took the lead through Steve Bull just before the hour and sat back to admire their handiwork. Four minutes later, West Ham were ahead, Robson's inch-perfect cross being met by Morley for the equaliser and a Dicks penalty effectively deciding the issue. Holmes, with the help of a deflection by Mountfield, simply dotted the "i" three minutes from time.



Tribute: floral No. 6

"It was an emotional day," Bonds said. "But the game was really something else, something apart from the rest of the day. We had 10,000 more people than we usually would. That just shows you how much Bobby is loved round here."

The sadness, though, is that only after his death has the nation realised how important he was to us. West Ham knew all along.

FA Cup

Sixth round

BLACKBURN (0) 0 SHEFFIELD U (0) 0
15,107

IPSWICH (1) 2 ARSENAL (1) 4
Kiwomya 16, Guentchev 77 — Adams 29, Wright 61 (pen), Whelan 72 (og), Campbell 89
22,054

Yesterday

MANCHESTER C (1) 2 TOTTENHAM (2) 4
Sheron 10 Phelan 87 — Nayim 25, 48, 85, Sedgley 44
34,050

Premier League

LIVERPOOL (0) 1 MANCHESTER U (1) 2
Rush 50 — Hughes 42, McClair 56
44,374

QPR (2) 3 NORWICH (1) 1
Ferdinand 19, 34, Wilson 79 — Robins 39
13,892

WIMBLEDON (1) 1 SOUTHAMPTON (1) 2
Holdsworth 22 — Le Tissier 34, Moore 71
4,534

Yesterday

COVENTRY (0) 0 EVERTON (1) 1
11,285 — Ward 8

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury 0, Harrow 1; Basingstoke 3, Windsor and Eton 0; Bognor 2, St Albans 6; Chesham 3, Yeading 0; Dulwich 0, Stevenage Borough 2; Enfield 2, Carshalton 1; Grays 1, Kingstonian 1; Marlow 1, Hayes 2; Staines 2, Bromley 3; Sutton United 0, Hendon 2; Wokingham 2, Wivenhoe 0. First division: Abingdon Town 1, Tooting and Mitcham 1; Barking 0, Molesey 5; Bishop's Stortford 3, Aveley 0; Boreham Wood 2, Chalfont St Peter 2; Hitchin 1, Dorking 2; Lewes 0, Wembley 3; Leyton 5, Whyteleafe 0; Maidenhead 1, Croydon 0; Uxbridge 1, Purfleet 1; Walton and Hersham 0, Billericay Town 2. Second division: Banstead Athletic 0, Berkhamsted 1; Chertsey 1, Newbury 1; Egham 0, Barton 0; Harefield 1, Edgware 2; Hemel Hempstead 0, Worthing 0; Hungerford 0, Ruislip Manor 0; Leatherhead 3, Tilbury 0; Rainham 3, Southall 2; Saffron Walden 2, Malden Vale 2; Ware 1, Metropolitan Police 1; Witham 0, Hampton 1. Third division: Aldershot Town 3, Flackwell Heath 1; Bracknell 0, Royston 1; East Thurrock 1, Thame 4; Epsom and Ewell 0, Tring 1; Feltham and Hounslow 0, Collier Row 4; Hornchurch 2, Horsham 1; Kingsbury 3, Petersfield 1; Leighton 2, Clapton 0; Northwood 0, Cove 1.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley 0, Bishop Auckland 0; Frickley 2, Barrow 1; Goole 0, Leek 1; Horwich 3, Buxton 0; Hyde 4, Chorley 0; Marine 2, Fleetwood 0; Morecambe 3, Colwyn Bay 1; Mossley 1, Emley 2; Southport 0, Gainsborough 0; Winsford 0, Matlock 0. First division: Bridlington Town 5, Shepshed Albion 0; Great Harwood 1, Knowsley 3; Gretna 0, Curzon Ashton 0; Harrogate 2, Congleton 1; Netherfield 1, Guiseley 1; Radcliffe Borough 0, Ashton United 2; Rossendale 0, Eastwood Town 2; Workington 2, Caernarfon 1; Worksop 1, Warrington 0. First division cup: Farsley Celtic 4, Lancaster City 4.

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Norwich 1, Chelsea 2.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ards 0, Ballymena 0; Ballyclare 1, Cliftonville 1; Crusaders 1, Linfield 0; Glentoran 2, Coleraine 2; Larne 1, Distillery 4; Newry 1, Glenavon 1; Omagh Town 0, Bangor 4; Portadown 5, Carrick 2.

Barclays League

First division

BARNSLEY (1) 2 LEICESTER (1) 3
Rammell 6, 71 — Coatsworth 18, 87, Walsh 51
9,452

BIRMINGHAM (1) 1 OXFORD UTD (0) 0
Peschisolido 29
11,104

BRISTOL C (0) 1 TRANMERE (2) 3
Cole 49 — Malkin 37, 78, Nevin 45
8,810

MILLWALL (0) 0 SUNDERLAND (0) 0
8,761

NEWCASTLE (1) 5 BRENTFORD (0) 1
Kelly 24 Bracewell 48, Clark 55, 82 Lee 72 — Scott 57 (og)
30,006

NOTTS CO (1) 3 BRISTOL R (0) 0
Draper 13, 81, Devlin 69
8,445

PETERBORO (1) 1 GRIMSBY (0) 0
Adcock 43
8,657

PORTSMOUTH (1) 2 LUTON (1) 1
Whittingham 18, Aspinall 51 (pen) — Gray 15
10,457

SOUTHEND (0) 0 CHARLTON (0) 2
5,804 — Webster 64, Leaburn 81

WATFORD (0) 0 SWINDON (3) 4
8,791 — White 2, 29, 80, Mitchell 21

WEST HAM (0) 3 WOLVES (0) 1
Morley 58, Dicks 61 (pen), Mountfield 88 (og) — Bull 58
24,679

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
	HOME						AWAY					
Newcastle	33	11	4	1	34	9	10	3	4	26	16	70
West Ham	33	10	4	2	33	13	8	5	4	26	17	63
Swindon	32	11	4	2	33	17	5	4	6	23	24	56
Portsmouth	33	12	2	2	32	8	3	7	7	24	31	54
Millwall	33	11	4	1	41	15	3	8	8	12	30	54
Tranmere	31	10	4	2	35	14	5	2	8	18	28	51
Leicester	32	8	4	4	25	19	6	3	7	20	23	49
Grimsby	32	8	5	3	27	21	6	1	9	20	21	48
Charlton	33	7	7	3	22	15	5	4	7	17	17	47
Derby	32	5	1	10	25	27	8	5	3	25	14	45
Wolves	33	7	6	4	27	20	4	5	7	17	22	44
Peterborough	31	4	5	7	21	22	8	1	6	20	22	44
Watford	33	5	5	6	23	27	6	4	7	26	32	42
Barnsley	32	7	3	5	19	14	4	4	9	23	26	40
Oxford Utd	32	5	6	5	28	15	4	6	6	18	24	39
Sunderland	31	6	5	6	21	19	4	4	6	10	20	38
Brentford	33	6	3	8	22	23	4	4	8	18	28	37
Cambridge	32	6	4	6	19	21	2	8	6	19	34	35
Notts Co	32	6	5	5	22	18	2	6	8	19	34	35
Luton	32	3	9	4	17	23	4	5	7	17	28	35
Bristol C	32	5	5	5	19	21	3	4	10	17	37	33
Birmingham	32	7	2	6	19	22	1	6	10	10	31	32
Southend	32	5	6	5	21	15	2	4	10	13	28	31
Bristol R	33	5	2	10	21	34	3	4	9	17	32	30

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cambridge City 2, Waterlooville 1; Cheltenham 0, Hastings 1; Crawley 1, Moor Green 1; Gloucester 1, Bashley 1; Halesowen 1, Corby 0; Hednesford 3, Buxton 0; Solihull 1, Dorchester 0; Trowbridge 0, Dover 2; Weymouth 1, Atherstone 5; Worcester 0, VS Rugby 0. Midland division: Bedworth 1, RC Warwick 0; Bilston 5, King's Lynn 2; Bridgnorth 1, Yate 1; Dudley 0, Leicester United 1; Grantham 0, Redditch 5; Gresley 4, Weston-super-Mare 2; Hinckley 1, Barri 2; Rushden and Diamonds 2, Forest Green Rovers 1; Stourbridge 0, Tamworth 3; Sutton Coldfield 4, Evesham 1. Southern division: Bury Town 0, Braintree 4; Canterbury City 1, Newport IOW 0; Dunstable 1, Ashford 2; Fareham Town 8, Erith and Belvedere 0; Fisher Athletic 1, Baldock 2; Gravesend and Northfleet 3, Buckingham 4; Havant 4, Wealdstone 2; Margate 4, Burnham 0; Sittingbourne 0, Salisbury 1; Sudbury 2, Andover 1; Witney 2, Poole 0.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth 0, Bangor 2; Afan Lido 2, Caersws 2; Cwmbran 2, Conwy 2; Ebbw Vale 1, Flint 3; Holywell 0, Haverfordwest 1; Cardiff 2, Llanidloes 1; Maesteg Park 1, Mold 2; Newtown 2, Llanelli 2; Porthmadog 8, Abergavenny 0; Briton F 0, Connah's Q 3.

Second division

BLACKPOOL (0) 1 HARTLEPOOL (0) 1
Horner 50 — Saville 51
4,926

BOLTON (0) 1 L ORIENT (0) 0
Walker 69
7,763

BOURNEMOUTH (0) 1 EXETER (1) 3
Pennock 47 — Dolan 19, 86, McIntyre 66
4,948

BRADFORD (0) 1 HULL (2) 2
Jewell 52 — Windass 3, Stapleton 44 (og)
6,245

BRIGHTON (0) 0 PORT VALE (0) 2
7,294 — Glover 54, Kent 88

FULHAM (0) 0 READING (0) 0
4,818

HUDDERSFLD (0) 1 ROTHERHAM (0) 1
Roberts 86 — Varadi 50
5,235

MANSFIELD (0) 2 WIGAN (0) 0
Wilkinson 61, Castledine 77
3,024

PLYMOUTH (3) 4 PRESTON (0) 0
Hodges 14, Leonard 22 (og), Castle 32 Evans 87
5,201

STOKE (2) 4 CHESTER (0) 0
Stein 23, 84, Shaw 41 Foley 87
14,534

WEST BROM (1) 2 BURNLEY (0) 0
Garner 3, Taylor 70
15,722

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
	HOME						AWAY					
Stoke	31	12	3	0	33	9	7	6	3	24	16	66
Port Vale	31	11	5	0	34	10	6	3	6	22	23	59
Stockport	32	10	6	1	38	12	5	4	6	22	23	55
West Brom	32	11	3	2	35	12	5	4	7	18	23	55
L Orient	33	13	3	1	37	12	3	4	9	14	22	55
Bolton	30	9	2	3	27	10	5	5	6	23	22	49
Brighton	32	8	3	4	22	15	6	4	7	21	24	49
Rotherham	32	8	4	5	24	19	5	5	5	18	18	48
Burnley	32	8	6	2	26	13	4	4	8	14	27	46
Reading	32	8	3	5	32	16	3	8	5	18	19	44
Bradford	33	7	4	5	22	17	4	7	6	28	34	44
Fulham	33	5	7	4	18	19	5	7	5	22	27	44
Swansea	31	5	7	2	19	10	5	6	6	20	21	43
Bournemouth	31	6	5	4	20	16	5	6	6	13	17	43
Plymouth	31	9	5	1	27	11	2	4	10	8	28	42
Hartlepool	33	6	4	7	14	17	4	6	6	18	21	40
Hull	32	6	4	6	20	19	4	5	7	15	25	39
Exeter	32	4	5	7	20	23	4	7	6	18	28	36
Preston	32	6	5	6	29	29	3	2	10	16	35	34
Blackpool	32	5	8	3	26	22	2	4	10	16	32	33
Mansfield	32	6	6	4	28	24	2	3	11	9	33	33
Wigan	32	5	6	6	21	21	3	3	9	10	24	33
Huddersfield	30	3	5	7	14	17	2	3	10	13	39	23
Chester	33	5	2	10	25	34	1	2	13	13	39	22

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Brightlingsea 0, Diss 2; Felixstowe 2, Chatteris 1; Halstead 4, Gorleston 1; Haverhill 0, Harwich and Parkeston 5; March Town 1, Lowestoft 0; Norwich United 1, Brantham Athletic 1; Stowmarket 1, Histon 2; Tiptree 3, Watton 1.

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bacup Borough 2, Darwen 3; Bamber Bridge 2, Flixton 1; Blackpool Rovers 0, St Helens 8; Chadderton 3, Kidsgrove Athletic 1; Clitheroe 5, Eastwood Hanley 0; Maine Road (Man) 2, Penrith 0; Newcastle Town 6, Blackpool Mechanics 0; Salford City 1, Atherton LR 2; Skelmersdale 0, Bradford Park Avenue 1.

Third division

CREWE (2) 3 GILLINGHAM (0) 1
Smith 12, McKearney 31 (pen), Clark 58 (og) — Martin 89
3,215

HALIFAX (0) 0 CARLISLE (1) 2
1,309 — Oghani 6, Arnold 82 (pen)

LINCOLN (2) 2 NORTHAMPTON (0) 0
Baraclough 17 (pen), Matthews 31
3,326

ROCHDALE (0) 1 CARDIFF (1) 2
Bowden 63 — Blake 21, Griffith 67
2,831

SCARBORO (0) 1 BURY (2) 3
Charles 80 (pen) — Adekola 38, 45, 90
2,189

SCUNTHORPE (0) 0 CHESTERFLD (1) 1
2,725 — Lancaster 14

SHREWSBURY (1) 1 BARNET (0) 0
Kinnaird 37
4,518

TORQUAY (0) 0 DARLINGTON (1) 2
3,147 — O'Shaughnessy 25, Mardenborough 83

WREXHAM (2) 2 HEREFORD (0) 0
Cross 4 Bennett 29
5,280

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
	HOME						AWAY					
Barnet	30	14	2	1	39	12	5	4	5	15	18	63
Cardiff	30	9	5	1	32	15	8	1	8	22	20	57
Wrexham	30	10	2	3	35	19	6	5	4	19	22	55
York	31	10	5	1	33	10	5	5	5	19	28	55
Shrewsbury	29	11	1	4	28	20	5	4	4	14	13	53
Lincoln	30	8	3	3	20	12	7	2	7	21	23	50
Bury	28	8	3	3	30	12	5	2	7	20	26	47
Walsall	29	7	4	4	30	25	7	0	7	22	23	46
Scarborough	28	6	4	2	20	13	7	2	7	30	33	45
Crewe	28	8	0	4	24	15	6	3	7	24	28	45
Chesterfield	30	6	2	5	24	19	4	6	5	19	22	44
Rochdale	29	6	3	5	26	20	5	5	5	25	28	41
Colchester	30	9	3	4	27	21	3	1	10	18	31	40
Doncaster	33	5	4	7	18	20	3	7	7	14	26	35
Carlisle	29	6	2	7	25	21	3	5	6	18	23	34
Darlington	30	3	4	8	15	24	5	5	5	15	15	33
Scunthorpe	27	4	5	4	21	16	4	2	8	13	23	31
Halifax	31	3	4	9	19	27	4	3	8	21	36	28
Hereford	29	4	8	3	22	20	2	2	10	12	27	28
Torquay	30	4	2	9	11	20	4	0	11	19	34	26
Gillingham	31	5	3	7	23	22	0	7	9	12	28	25
Northampton	30	3	4	8	15	26	3	2	8	19	30	24

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal 1, Watford 1; Gillingham 3, Cambridge United 3; Ipswich 2, West Ham 0; Millwall 4, Chelsea 0; Norwich 3, Charlton 2; Portsmouth 0, Southend 3; QPR 5, Fulham 3; Tottenham 4, Leyton Orient 0. Second division: Bournemouth 1, Brentford 1; Bristol Rovers 1, Luton 4; Colchester 0, Brighton 2; Crystal Palace 2, Wimbledon 2; Reading 5, Oxford Utd 1; Southampton 1, Tottenham 0; Swindon 0, Bristol City 1.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Civil Service 5, Carshalton 2; West Wickham 4, Old Parkonians 1; Crouch End Vampires 0, Old Actonians 1; Old Esthameians 4, South Bank Poly 0; Norsemen 0, NatWest Bank 2; Winchmore Hill 4, Lloyds Bank 0; Polytechnic 1, Southgate Olympic 0; Ibis 0, Kew Association 0; Old Stationers 0, Alexandra Park 4; Old Salesians 1, Broomfield 3; Old Parmiterians 3, Bank of England 0; Alleyn Old Boys 0, Old Westminster Cits 3; Brentham 2, East Barnet OG 2; Cuaco 3, Royal Bank 3; Old Latymerians 3, Old Lyonians 1; Reigate Priory 2, Merton 1.

Match	Points
1	2
2	1½
3	1½
4	1½
5	1½
6	1½
7	1½
8	1½
9	2
10	1½
11	1½
12	1½
13	1½
14	1½
15	1½
16	1½
17	3
18	1½
19	1½
20	1½
21	1½
22	2
23	3
24	1½
25	1½
26	1½
27	1½
28	1½
29	1½
30	1½
31	1½
32	1½
33	1½
34	1½
35	1½
36	1½
37	3
38	3
39	1½
40	1½
41	1½
42	1½
43	2
44	3
45	1½
46	1½
47	1½
48	3
49	1½
50	3
51	1½
52	1½
53	1½
54	1½
55	1½
56	3
57	1½
58	1½

FORECAST: A possible jackpot with eight score-draws and four no-score draws. Telephone claims required for 22½, 23 and 24 points.

GM Vauxhall Conference

ALTRINCHAM (1) 1 WOKING (0) 0
Smith 18 — 839

BATH (0) 0 MACCLSFLD (0) 0
478

BROMSGROVE (1) 4 STALYBRIDGE (0) 0
Brain 35, Whitehouse 68, 74, Gray 83 — 945

FARNBOROUGH (0) 1 DAGENHAM (3) 4
Leworthy 80 — Nuttell 11, 66, Owers 20, Stebbing 26
855

NORTHWICH (2) 3 BOSTON (2) 3
Parker 12, O'Connor 43, Butler 51 — Trott 8 Jones 7, Parker 87 (og)
803

SLOUGH (0) 1 RUNCORN (1) 1
Bailey 46 — Shaughnessy 13
803

TELFORD (0) 1 GATESHEAD (0) 0
Hodkin 90 — 833

WELLING (0) 1 STAFFORD (1) 2
Newman 73 — Fisher 20, Clayton 87
712

WITTON (1) 3 MERTHYR (1) 1
Burke 44, Alford 81, 89 — Benbow 14
614

WYCOMBE (0) 1 KETTERING (2) 2
Kerr 83 — Brown 29, Hodges 42
4,430

YEOVIL (2) 2 KIDDERMINSTR (0) 2
Shail 13 Wilson 40 — Gordon 51, 54
2,159

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
	HOME						AWAY					
Wycombe	29	11	2	1	36	8	7	5	3	30	14	61
Slough	31	10	2	5	33	23	5	5	4	16	17	52
Dagenham	31	6	5	4	34	21	7	4	5	20	14	48
Bromsgrove	31	7	4	5	28	19	5	6	4	17	17	45
Telford	29	7	4	4	23	19	5	5	4	18	18	45
Woking	31	5	2	7	18	19	8	3	6	27	27	44
Northwich	30	3	5	7	17	21	9	2	4	34	15	43
Kettering	32	9	4	5	32	25	2	5	7	18	28	42
Yeovil	28	8	3	2	24	12	3	5	7	11	20	41
Gateshead	30	7	5	4	18	14	4	3	7	21	27	41
Bath	28	6	5	3	20	18	4	4	6	17	15	39
Stalybridge	29	3	8	3	17	22	6	4	5	20	22	39
Stafford	26	4	3	6	14	17	7	2	4	19	15	38
Altrincham	29	6	5	5	15	18	5	3	6	15	19	38
Kidderminster	31	5	5	6	17	24	3	8	4	20	20	37
Farnborough	31	7	3	7	29	29	3	4	7	25	34	37
Runcorn	31	8	2	6	24	22	2	5	8	15	34	37
Merthyr	27	1	5	6	11	25	9	1	5	21	22	36
Welling	34	5	6	6	24	28	3	5	9	22	33	35
Witton	27	4	5	5	22	21	3	5	5	16	17	31
Macclesfield	28	4	4	4	15	13	4	2	10	14	26	30
Boston	31	4	4	6	17	22	3	5	9	21	32	30

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 2, Pontefract Col 3; Ashfield 0, Thackley 1; Glasshoughton Wel 2, Liversedge 3; Harrogate Rs 2, Eccleshill 3; North Ferriby 2, Denaby 0; Ossett Albion 3, Spennymoor 2; Pickering 3, Belper 0; Sheffield 1, Ossett Town 2; Stocksbridge PS 0, Winterton Rangers 4.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Brandon 0, Easington Colliery 0; Chester-le-Street 1, Whitby 2; Durham City 0, Billingham Synthonia 3; Ferryhill Athletic 2, Guisborough 5; Hebburn 3, Seaham Red Star 4; Newcastle Blue Star 5 Consett 3; Northallerton 0, West Auckland 2; Stockton 2, Blyth Spartans 0; Tow Law 3, Peterlee Newtown 1.

Tennents Scottish Cup

Fifth round

ABERDEEN (1) 1 CLYDEBANK (0) 1
Shearer 2 (pen) — McIntosh 82
11,300

ARBROATH (0) 0 RANGERS (2) 3
8,810 — Hateley 14, Murray 31, McCoist 65 (pen)

HEARTS (1) 2 FALKIRK (0) 0
Preston 41, Robertson 46 (pen) — 12,721

HIBERNIAN (1) 2 ST JOHNSTONE (0) 0
Tweed 34, Wright 58 — 10,785

Scottish League

Premier division

AIRDRIE (1) 1 DUNDEE UTD (2) 3
Fashanu 25 — Ferguson 17, Connolly 44, Clark 62
2,500

DUNDEE (1) 1 MOTHERWELL (0) 1
Rix 15 — Griffin 82
3,370

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
	HOME						AWAY					
Rangers	31	14	2	0	39	10	10	4	1	37	14	54
Aberdeen	31	10	5	2	33	8	9	2	3	32	14	45
Celtic	32	6	5	4	24	16	9	6	2	25	15	41
Hearts	32	10	4	2	20	9	3	7	6	15	20	37
Dundee Utd	33	6	6	4	16	16	8	2	7	21	18	36
Hibernian	32	6	6	4	24	21	3	5	8	18	24	29
Dundee	33	6	3	8	20	25	3	6	7	20	28	27
St Johnstone	32	6	6	3	21	19	2	5	10	16	32	27
Motherwell	33	4	4	9	18	30	3	7	6	17	21	25
Partick	32	4	4	8	20	34	4	5	7	15	20	25
Falkirk	32	5	4	7	29	32	3	0	13	15	40	20
Airdrie	33	3	6	7	14	19	1	6	10	10	34	20

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Chippenham 1, Bideford 2; Exmouth 1, Bristol Manor Farm 1; Liskeard Athletic 4, Dawlish 0; Paulton 1, Torrington 1; Taunton 3, Minehead 1; Tiverton 3, Plymouth Argyle 0; Westbury 0, Mangotsfield 2.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Carthusians 7, Old Bradfieldians 0; Old Chigwellians 3, Old Etonians 1; Old Malvernians 1, Old Wellingburians 0. First division: Old Foresters 2, Old Harrovians 1; Old Wittleians 0, Old Salopians 1. Arthur Dunn Cup: Semi-final: Old Reptonians 3, Old Brentwoods 1.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning 4, Chertsey 0; Danes 0, Glyn 5; Ignatians 6, Enfield 0; Tenisonians 4, Aloysians 1; Tiffinians 4, Wilsonians 1.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: First division: Nottsborough 3, Southgate County 0; Old Finchleians 2, Mill Hill Village 1; Old Owens 1, Old Besonians 1; Parkfield 2, Old Grammarians 2; Witan 2, Old Fairlopians 2.

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Second round: Derry City 1, Athlone Town 0; Dundalk 0, Bohemians 0; Limerick 1, Home Farm 1; Shamrock Rovers 3, Waterford United 0; Shelbourne 0, Cork City 0; Sligo Rovers 5, Cobh Ramblers 1; Tramore Athletic 1, Glenmore Celtic 3; UCD 1, St Patrick's Athletic 1.

First division

AYR (1) 3 COWDENBEATH (0) 1
Bryce 5 (pen), Traynor 85, Scott 90 — Robertson 63
1,270

HAMILTON (0) 1 DUMBARTON (0) 1
Clark 76 — McQuade 80
1,261

RAITH (1) 2 MORTON (0) 0
Dalziel 23, Brewster 52 — 1,938

ST MIRREN (0) 0 DUNFERMLINE (0) 1
3,000 — French 82

STIRLING (1) 2 KILMARNOCK (0) 0
Watters 31 (pen), 53 — 1,386

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
	HOME						AWAY					
Raith	33	12	5	0	41	11	8	6	2	25	17	51
Dunfermline	33	10	3	3	28	17	10	1	6	27	17	44
Kilmarnock	33	10	3	3	30	11	7	4	6	17	19	41
St Mirren	33	8	4	4	24	13	8	3	6	19	24	39
Hamilton	33	8	6	3	28	17	6	4	6	22	16	38
Morton	33	8	2	7	28	22	6	5	5	21	20	35
Ayr	33	6	5	4	23	16	3	6	7	16	30	33
Clydebank	32	7	6	3	27	14	3	4	9	22	34	30
Dumbarton	33	8	1	8	26	27	5	3	8	24	33	30
Meadowbank	32	4	5	6	15	23	4	3	10	21	37	24
Stirling	33	4	3	9	13	23	2	7	8	16	23	22
Cowdenbeath	33	0	4	13	17	45	1	1	14	9	41	7

Second division

BERWICK (0) 0 CLYDE (0) 1
482 — McGarvey 75

E FIFE (1) 2 ALLOA (0) 2
Brown 38, Beaton 86 (pen) — Moffat 64, 79
563

FORFAR (0) 1 STENHSMUIR (0) 0
Winter 70 (pen) — 441

MONTROSE (0) 1 ALBION (1) 1
Craib 48 — Kelly 30
335

QUEEN OF S (0) 1 BRECHIN (0) 2
Rowe 85 — McNeill 48, Heggie 79
416

STRANRAER (3) 4 QUEEN'S PK (0) 2
Sloan 25 Grant 32, McLean 34, 83 — Black 67 Millar 88
475

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
	HOME						AWAY					
Brechin	29	10	3	1	29	11	8	4	3	20	11	43
Clyde	29	6	5	3	23	12	10	3	2	35	17	40
Stranraer	29	6	7	2	23	15	7	4	3	20	16	37
Alloa	29	7	3	4	27	19	7	5	3	25	19	36
Forfar	28	9	3	3	38	23	5	4	5	18	17	35
E Fife	29	5	4	6	27	27	7	3	4	31	19	31
Arbroath	28	5	4	5	22	21	7	2	5	17	17	30
Stenhsmuir	29	5	2	7	18	19	4	7	4	23	18	27
Berwick	29	6	3	6	25	23	4	2	8	17	29	25
Queen of S	29	4	3	8	18	21	4	4	6	22	30	23
Montrose	29	3	3	9	18	28	5	2	7	20	29	21
E Stirling	28	3	3	8	18	30	4	3	7	25	37	20
Queen's Park	29	5	2	7	22	26	2	3	10	17	31	19
Albion	29	3	5	6	18	25	1	4	10	10	28	17

GERMAN LEAGUE: FC Nuremberg 1, SV Hamburg 0; Werder Bremen 3, SC Karlsruhe 0; Bayern Munich 1, Eintracht Frankfurt 0; Wattenscheid 09 1, FC Kaiserslautern 0; Borussia Dortmund 2, Bayer Uerdingen 0; Borussia Mönchengladbach 2, Schalke 04 0; FC Saarbrucken 1, VfL Bochum 1; VfB Stuttgart 0, Bayer Leverkusen 3; FC Cologne 3, Dynamo Dresden 1. Leading positions (after 20 matches): 1, Bayern Munich, 31 points; 2, Werder Bremen, 28; 3, Eintracht Frankfurt, 28.

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Ancona 0, Genoa 0; Atalanta 1, Inter Milan 1; Foggia 0, Brescia 0; Juventus 4, Naples 3; AC Milan 2, Fiorentina 0; Parma 2, Lazio 1; Pescara 2, Udinese 2; Roma 1, Cagliari 1; Sampdoria 0, Torino 1. Leading positions (after 22 matches): 1, AC Milan, 39 points; 2, Inter Milan, 28; 3, Torino, 26.

SPANISH LEAGUE: Athletic Bilbao 1, Osasuna 0.

ENGLISH ADIDAS UNDER-19 TROPHY: Regional semi-final: Suffolk 4, Sussex 1.

Weekend statistics

LIVERPOOL had the highest attendance of the season for the visit of Manchester United but the figure of 44,374 was not enough to prop up the rest of Premier League, which finished the week 18.1 per cent down on last season's average. Curiously, Newcastle and West Ham were doing the same in the first, their combined gates of 54,685 accounting for two-fifths of that division's weekly total.

GOALSCORERS

Premier League	Lge	FA	LC	Oth	Tot
Wright (Arsenal)	12	8	4	0	24
Shearer (Blackburn)	16	0	6	0	22
Sheringham (Tottnhm)	15	4	3	0	22
Quinn (Coventry)	16	0	0	3	19
Hignett (Middlesbro)	11	4	3	0	18
White (Man City)	14	3	0	0	17
Saunders (A Villa)	13	2	2	0	17
Chapman (Leeds)	12	1	2	2	17
Cantona (Man Utd)	12	0	0	5	17
First division	**Lge**	**FA**	**LC**	**Oth**	**Tot**
Whittingham (Portmth)	31	0	2	3	36
Aldridge (Tranmere)	19	1	2	2	24
Blissett (Brentford)	15	0	4	4	23
Furlong (Watford)	17	0	3	0	20
Kitson (Derby)	14	0	2	4	20
Maskell (Swindon)	17	0	1	1	19
Morley (West Ham)	17	1	0	1	19
Kelly (Newcastle)	15	1	2	1	19
Peacock (Newcastle)	12	2	2	2	18
Second division	**Lge**	**FA**	**LC**	**Oth**	**Tot**
Francis (Stockport)	20	2	2	4	28
Walker (Bolton)	18	4	1	2	25
Stein (Stoke)	18	0	4	3	25
Taylor (West Brom)	17	3	1	3	24
McCarthy (Bradford)	13	2	1	5	21
Quinn (Reading)	12	3	1	2	18
Saville (Hartlepool)	11	5	1	1	18
Third division	**Lge**	**FA**	**LC**	**Oth**	**Tot**
Foreman (Scarboro)	22	0	2	2	26
Griffiths (Shrewsbury)	20	2	1	1	24
Clarke (Walsall)	17	0	1	1	19
Bennett (Wrexham)	14	1	2	2	19
Bull (Barnet)	15	0	2	0	17

Other goals include Autoglass Trophy, Anglo-Italian Cup, European cups and Charity Shield.

OFFENCES

FAIR PLAY	Sent off	Booked
Norwich	—	17
Aston Villa	—	18
Coventry	—	23
Newcastle	1	22
Peterborough	2	22
Scarborough	—	24
FOUL PLAY	**Sent off**	**Booked**
Torquay	3	64
Cambridge Utd	6	57
Chester	4	58
Colchester	2	58
Reading	4	55
Sheff Utd	3	56
Wimbledon	2	56
Exeter	3	54
Hereford	6	49

Offences do not include Anglo-Italian Cup matches.

ATTENDANCES

Division	Weekly total	Wkly avge	Wkly chng	91-2 chng
Prem (11)	193,504	17,708	-18.8	-18.1
Div 1 (12)	145,072	12,089	+14.0	+14.9
Div 2 (15)	92,768	6,185	+4.5	+14.1
Div 3 (11)	34,830	3,166	+19.0	-8.0

Highest/lowest of weekend: Premier League: 44,374 (Liverpool v Man Utd), 4,534 (Wimbledon v Southampton). First division: 30,006 (Newcastle v Brentford); 5,804 (Southend v Charlton). Second division: 15,722 (West Brom v Burnley); 3,024 (Mansfield v Wigan). Third division: 5,280 (Wrexham v Hereford), 1,309 (Halifax v Carlisle).

☐ Compiled by Julian Desborough

Vintage Crop's challenge hinges on crucial gallop

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

BY HIS own admission yesterday, Dermot Weld has devoted more time attempting to get Vintage Crop right for the Champion Hurdle in eight days' time than to any other horse he has handled in his 21 years as a trainer.

The care and attention lavished on last year's Cesarewitch winner is not just due to the horse being owned by Michael Smurfit, whose company sponsors Cheltenham's hurdling crown next Tuesday. Vintage Crop is simply the best staying horse ever to pass through Weld's highly-experienced hands.

It would be infuriating for the Curragh trainer if niggling injuries over the winter months prejudiced his chance of lining up for the Champion Hurdle in this year of all moderate years.

Weld, who has trained Flat winners at the highest level on three continents, believes he may have worked the oracle as he has so often in the past. Tomorrow morning, he will find out when Brendan Sheridan partners Vintage Crop in a crucial schooling session, the first this year.

Vintage Crop is the missing piece in this year's Champion Hurdle jigsaw. His place in the ante-post betting lists this winter has owed more to potential than performance.

The six-year-old tore a muscle in his quarters during a schooling session at Punchestown before Christmas. Weld attempted to get him right for The Ladbroke Hurdle at Leopardstown in January, but the injury did not heal in time. A challenge for the Irish Champion Hurdle three weeks later was thwarted when Vintage Crop went lame. And so it was back to the drawing board. A break, plenty of rest, before a gradual build-up to the ultimate target.

"It's like an athlete with a hamstring injury. It's great when you are doing slow work, but it is when the real pressure comes that it can go wrong," Weld reflected.

"I have always hoped he would run in the Champion. I still hope he will run. I have probably put more work into getting this horse sound than any horse.

"You are dealing with a horse that has been very lame. We now have him sound. Keeping him sound is the big question."

Vintage Crop's homework with other Flat horses has been scintillating. As Weld pointed out, he is such a good horse, with a tremendous cruising speed, that he is not extended and so does not test the old injury. "He is certainly the best staying horse I have ever trained."

Tomorrow is different. Tuesday, according to Weld, is crunch-day. "Jumping hurdles, he has to extend himself and push off his hind legs. He will be using muscles to jump which he has torn in the past and that is the risk. It's important to see what the reaction is like. He won't be asked to do anything too strenuous."

Weld added: "My horse does lack experience over hurdles (he won two minor races last season). I am well aware of that, but my main concern is to keep him sound and get him there."

Punters willing to risk the outcome of tomorrow's hurdling session began backing him over the weekend. Ladbrokes cut Vintage Crop from 14-1 to 10-1; William Hill go 11-1 from 14-1.

One of Vintage Crop's rivals, Halkopous, has not run since disappointing in the Irish Champion Hurdle. However, Mark Tompkins, who also runs Staunch Friend in the race, was smiling from ear to ear after Rosgill had won the Eastleigh Handicap Hurdle at Newbury on Saturday. "That is a good guide. Rosgill has been leading Halkopous in most of his work."


Weld: main concern is to keep Vintage Crop sound

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TAKE TWO
(5.25 Windsor)
NB: *Northern Saddler*
(4.15 Doncaster)

Nicholson lines up formidable team

DAVID Nicholson, who is enjoying his most successful season with 80 winners, could have 21 runners at the Cheltenham festival (Richard Evans writes).

Such is the strength of the Jackdaws Castle string, Nicholson will have horses in all but the Champion Hurdle, County Hurdle and the bumper.

Several runners are likely to be vying for favouritism in their respective races, including Hebridean (Sun Alliance Hurdle), Beauchamp Grace (Triumph Hurdle, where Kadi also runs), Barton Bank (Sun Alliance Chase), Baydon Star (Stayers' Hurdle) and Viking Flagship (Grand Annual).

Wonder Man (Arkle), Duntree (Ritz Club) Dreamers Delight (Supreme Novices), Strong Beau (Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir) Another Coral (Gold Cup), Waterloo Boy (Queen Mother Champion Chase) will also attract considerable support.

With the continuing dry weather, Philip Arkwright, clerk of the course at Cheltenham, said yesterday he intended to begin selective watering on both courses to prevent firm ground.

The going is currently good to firm and the ground is drying out all the time.

Arkwright said it was not in the best interests of racing for the festival to be staged on firm ground. He accepted the decision would not please everybody, but said it would help to prevent injuries to horses. "I am watering to avoid firm ground, not to produce good ground," he added.

DONCASTER

THUNDERER
2.10 John Corbet. 2.40 Firm Price. 3.15 Strath Royal. 3.45 Over The Stream. 4.15 Doradus. 4.50 Air Commander. 5.20 Cyrano's Lad.
Brian Beel: 2.10 Curaheen Boy.
Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.40 FIRM PRICE.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.10 HAMBLETON HILLS HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: £1,569: 2m 3f 110yd) (16 runners)
1 328- LACIDAR 292 (F,G,S) P Sawney 13-12-5 M Armytage
2 -222 CURAHEEN BOY 5 (D,F,G) C Trietline 13-12-4 Miss J Butler (7)
3 /02-3 GONER HOUSE 13 (F) M McCarthy 8-12-4 D McBell (7)
4 -134- HIGHFIELD PRINCE 409 (F,G) D Marchant 7-12-4 N Wilson (7)
5 /PR- BELLE ISLE BILL 370 W Smith 8-12-0 M Cogan (7)
6 20/P DAVY'S WEIR 161 (F,G) B Thornley 13-12-0 C Barlow (7)
7 220- HILL STREET 378 (F,G,S) M Ashton 11-12-0 M Ashton (7)
8 5F4- JOHN CORBET 287 (F) Mrs J Brown 10-12-0 R Brown (5)
9 333/ MUSIC BE MAGIC 1258 (C,F,S) N Mason 14-12-0 Miss Y Beckingham (7)
10 4U5- PALMRUSH 289 (F,G) T Beadle 9-12-0 R Ford (7)
11 /2/6 RAZZLE DAZZLE BOY 21 (F) Mrs L Sheedy 11-12-0 G Lewis (7)
12 3P5- SLIEVENAMADDY 345 B Sommers 9-12-0 M Harris (7)
13 CROXDALE GREY 1330F P Needham 6-11-9 L Donnelly (7)
14 /FR- FABULOUS QUEEN 322 P Venner 10-11-9 P Harding-Jones (5)
15 4F0- HOISTTHESTANDARD 248 Mrs I Hadden 6-11-9 P Jenkins (7)
16 P5P- LINGHAM MAGIC 310 J Sellers 8-11-9 S Swiers
3-1 Curaheen Boy, 4-1 Lacidar, 5-1 John Corbet, 7-1 Highfield Prince, 8-1 Music Be Magic, 10-1 Fabulous Queen, 12-1 Razzle Dazzle Boy, 16-1 others.

2.40 BALMORAL CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,992: 2m 4f) (9)
1 2101 FIRM PRICE 25 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 12-11-11 P Niven
2 022/P ARSONIST 25 (F) A Blackmore 8-11-7 Mr R Griffiths (7)
3 60- SOMERBY 385 J Wharton 6-11-5 B Dalton (7)
4 3020 THIN RED LINE 21 (V,S) J Jenkins 9-11-5 D Gallagher
5 13/05 RAINBOW STRIPES 4 (B) B Rothwell 6-11-4 L Wyer
6 /P-00 THARSIS 13 (D,G) W Smith 8-11-3 N Stocks (7)
7 -3PP HAAWI 25 (CD,F) J Glover 5-11-2 S D Williams (3)
8 510- ANGELICA PARK 186F (F,G) J Wharton 7-10-13 S J O'Neill
9 341S JASMIN PATH 150 (F,G,S) S Gollings 8-10-13 M Hourigan (3)
4-5 Firm Price, 5-1 Angelica Park, 7-1 Haawi, 8-1 Thin Red Line, 10-1 Jasmin Path, 14-1 Rainbow Stripes, 16-1 others.

3.15 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,262: 2m 110yd) (2)
1 1321 HURDY 37 (C,D,G) J Hanson 6-11-10 G Bradley
2 4013 STRATH ROYAL 16 (D,G,S) D Brennan 7-11-5 G McCourt
4-5 Strath Royal, 11-10 Hurdy.

COURSE SPECIALISTS
TRAINERS: M Pipe, 5 winners from 17 runners, 29.4%; J Hanson, 3 from 12, 25.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 10 from 49, 20.4%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 8 from 49, 16.3%; N Tinkler, 5 from 32, 15.6%; J Mackie, 4 from 34, 11.8%.
JOCKEYS: W Dwan, 4 winners from 11 rides, 36.4%; P Niven, 14 from 42, 33.3%; G McCourt, 10 from 40, 25.0%; M Dwyer, 5 from 33, 15.2%; L Wyer, 4 from 30, 13.3%; C Grant, 4 from 33, 12.1%.

3.45 FEVERSHAM NOVICES CHASE (£2,655: 3m) (5)
1 P504 JOLLY ROGER 5 (F) J Hanson 5-11-4 G Bradley
2 35P2 OVER THE STREAM 13 M Hammond 7-11-4 P Niven
3 4/PPP SANDSTONE ARCH 118 T Caldwell 10-11-4 Pat Caldwell
4 5-32 YORKSHIRE HOLLY 158 (B,S) R Wood 10-11-4 Mr S Swiers
5 3U04 PANDORA'S PRIZE 10 (S) Mrs P Joynes 7-10-13 T Wall
6-4 Over The Stream, 7-4 Yorkshire Holly, 9-2 Jolly Roger, 10-1 Pandora's Prize, 20-1 Sandstone Arch.

4.15 SOUTH YORKSHIRE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,127: 2m 110yd) (10)
1 1233 JOHN SHAW 19 (D) R O'Leary 5-11-10 L Wyer
2 1FF3 NORTHERN SADDLER 66 (G) R Hodges 6-11-2 G McCourt
3 P-15 DORADUS 12 (BF,G) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-1 M Dwyer
4 215 ANTIGUAN FLYER 47 (D,BF) J Bostock 4-10-11 J McLaughlin
5 1242 TIP-IT IN 19 (S) A Smith 4-10-5 C Grant
6 -3F00 DOLLY PRICES 11 W Smith 8-10-1 S Taylor (7)
7 F343 RISING TEMPO 12 (V) B Baugh 5-10-1 Gary Lyons
8 0052 LEGITIM 9 J Jefferson 4-10-0 R Hodge
9 1554 MY LINDIANNE 11 (D,S) J Dooler 6-10-0 M Hourigan (3)
10 -F6D VALATCH 16 J Harris 5-10-0 J A Harris
7-4 Doradus, 7-2 Tip It In, 5-1 John Shaw, 7-1 Antiguan Flyer, 8-1 Northern Saddler, 10-1 Legitim, 12-1 others.

4.50 FRENCHGATE CENTRE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,561: 2m 3f 110yd) (5)
1 6P62 AIR COMMANDER 10 (F,G) Mrs P Joynes 8-11-10 T Wall
2 3654 SIGNOR SASSIE 13 (G,S) N Tinkler 5-10-13 G McCourt
3 /P2UU COMMANCHERO 3 R Hodges 6-10-13 C Grant
4 P601 BARTONDALE 9 (F) J Bradley 8-10-13 Mr G Lewis (7)
5 FF-5 TRAVELLER'S TRIP 149 (S) J Mackie 12-10-13 P Niven
9-4 Air Commander, 3-1 Bartondale, 7-2 Signor Sassie, 4-1 Commanchero, 7-1 Traveller's Trip.

5.20 EBF STAKES (National Hunt flat race: £1,772: 2m 110yd) (11)
1 0 HARRISTOWN 37 J Hanson 5-11-10 A Larnach (5)
2 20 OTTOMAN EMPIRE 34 D Brennan 6-11-10 M Hourigan (3)
3 46 TROPNEVAD 17 J Jefferson 5-11-10 G Tormey (7)
4 1 NATIVE FIELD 12 (F) Jimmy Fitzgerald 4-11-9 W Dwan (5)
5 0 AUTUMN LEAF 16 C Broad 5-11-5 A Flannigan (7)
6 04 SAILOR'S ROSE 34 M Pipe 5-11-5 M Foster
7 CYRANO'S LAD J Glover 4-11-2 S D Williams (3)
8 0 DEE EM AITCH 16 C Jones 4-11-2 S Wynne (3)
9 0 JET JOCKEY 53 R Spicer 4-11-2 J Ryan
10 MAYBE O'GRADY Mrs M Reveley 4-11-2 R Hodge
11 MISTY GREY G Fierro 4-11-2 P Midgley (5)
6-4 Native Field, 7-2 Maybe O'Grady, 5-1 Sailor's Rose, 7-1 Harristown, 8-1 Ottoman Empire, 10-1 Tropnevad, 12-1 Cyrano's Lad, 14-1 others.

Piggott rides double

LESTER Piggott completed a double at Sha Tin yesterday but could finish only eighth on Tom's Charge in the Hong Kong Derby. The nine-furlong race was won by Helene Star (Eric Legrix), who is trained, like Tom's Charge, by Patrick Biancone. Piggott's winners were So Easy (28-10), who made all in the Chester Handicap, and Dashing (53-10), a chance ride in the Newbury Handicap.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER
2.25 Easthorpe. 2.55 Happy Horse. 3.25 Barkisland. 3.55 Visaga. 4.25 Alpha One. 4.55 Admiralty Way.
Brian Beel: 4.25 Well Delayed.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (CHASE COURSE); GOOD, GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES (HURDLES) SIS

2.25 SPRING NOVICES HURDLE (£1,035: 2m 110yd) (10)
1 P201 EASTHORPE 14 (CD,G) Miss H Knight 5-11-8 J Osborne
2 142 GROVE SERENDIPITY 18 (B,CD,S) M Pipe 5-11-8 P Scudamore
3 3416 RAMHAM 18 (CD,S) D McCain 6-11-6 D Walsh (5)
4 05 CARLINGFORD LIGHTS 101 D O'Neill 5-11-2 J White
5 0P CAVALINO VINO 24 D McCain 5-11-2 Mr D McCain (5)
6 MOON MONKEY Mrs A King 5-11-2 Mr N Bradley (7)
7 MUST BE MAGICAL 137F J Mackie 5-11-2 R Garritty
8 -02P SILK DYNASTY 19 J Carden 7-11-2 D Tegg
9 0- TIP NAP 510 Mrs S Smith 5-11-2 M A Fitzgerald
10 3523 VIRKON VENTURE 33 (BF) M Tompkins 5-11-2 D Murphy
9-4 Virkon Venture, 11-4 Easthorpe, 7-2 Grove Serendipity, 6-1 Ramham, 12-1 Carlingford Lights, 16-1 Silk Dynasty, 20-1 Must Be Magical, 25-1 others.

2.55 PATSHULL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,035: 3m 1f 110yd) (5)
1 3165 ERCALL MILLER 40 (S) K White 6-11-10 A O'Hagan
2 20P1 MELDON 18 (G) Mrs J Retter 6-11-4 D Salter (7)
3 3301 HAPPY HORSE 10 (G) D Barons 6-10-13 N Hawke
4 0542 CALLAS ELECTRIC 10 D Nicholson 6-10-12 R Dunwoody
5 280 YASLOU 34 W Muir 6-10-12 I Lawrence
7-4 Callas Electric, 2-1 Happy Horse, 3-1 Meldon, 6-1 Ercall Miller, 14-1 Yaslou.

COURSE SPECIALISTS
TRAINERS: M Pipe, 23 winners from 70 runners, 32.9%; D Nicholson, 17 from 62, 27.4%; D Barons, 7 from 26, 26.9%; Miss H Knight, 7 from 30, 23.3%; O Sherwood, 7 from 33, 21.2%. (Only qualifiers).
JOCKEYS: N Hawke, 6 winners from 11 rides, 54.5%; P Scudamore, 23 from 67, 34.3%; R Dunwoody, 25 from 111, 22.5%; J Osborne, 12 from 62, 19.4%; I Lawrence, 6 from 38, 15.8%. (Only qualifiers).

3.25 JOHN SANDERS MEMORIAL TROPHY (Handicap chase: £1,506: 2m 4f 110yd) (3)
1 3-11 CHIP AND RUN 128 (D,G) Mrs J Retter 7-11-10 M A Fitzgerald
2 3251 BARKISLAND 32 (D,G,S) P Beaumont 9-11-1 R Dunwoody
3 3346 CIRCULATION 27 (G) D McCain 7-11-0 D Walsh (5)
11-8 Barkisland, 7-4 Chip And Run, 5-2 Circulation.

3.55 MARCH NOVICES CHASE (£1,553: 3m 1f) (10)
1 -PU5 CEDARS ROSSLARE 18 R Frost 8-10-12 R Darke (7)
2 -F22 CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 20 (B,S) Mrs J Retter 7-10-12 M A Fitzgerald
3 0P64 DI MODA 24 (V) J Bosley 6-10-12 M Bosley
4 P FRUHMAN 138 Mrs S Smith 7-10-12 L Harvey
5 0-PP HORCUM 18 P Pritchard 8-10-12 R Davis (5)
6 44PF JIMMY O'DEA 12 (B) T Bill 6-10-12 D Murphy
7 B-P0 MASTER TIM 107 T Foster 9-10-12 C Llewellyn
8 005U VISAGA 28 (F) D Nicholson 7-10-12 R Dunwoody
9 -U26 WIN ELECTRIC 20 Mrs R Henderson 7-10-7 Mr W Henderson
10 -4PP WOODLAND FLOWER 58 (B,S) O Sherwood 6-10-7 J Osborne
6-4 Crystal Heights, 11-4 Visaga, 4-1 Woodland Flower, 8-1 Di Moda, 12-1 Win Electric, 16-1 Master Tim, 20-1 others.

4.25 STRETTON NOVICES HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: £830: 3m 1f) (4)
1 AU-1 ALPHA ONE 20 (D,S) Miss C Saunders 8-12-6 J Greenall (3)
2 00FF BILLHEAD 803 Miss J Thomas 7-12-0 R Arnison (7)
3 4 RUSTY BRIDGE 20 J Johnson 6-12-0 T Jones (7)
4 3- WELL DELAYED 313 C Sanders 8-11-9 L Sanders (7)
4-5 Alpha One, 6-4 Well Delayed, 8-1 Rusty Bridge, 25-1 Billhead.

4.55 WILLENHALL HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,297: 2m 110yd) (11)
1 4411 ADMIRALTY WAY 21 (D,S) W Clay 7-11-10 Diane Clay
2 1-00 OAK PARK 58 (CD,G) J Pickering 5-11-3 R Davis (5)
3 2406 CARIBBEAN PRINCE 11 (V,D,F,S) M McCourt 5-11-1 L Harvey
4 5P00 PERSIAN VALLEY 28 (B,D,F) F Jordan 8-11-1 C Llewellyn
5 0336 MADAM PICASSO 24 R Mitchell 4-11-0 G Upton
6 0221 ON THE LINE 5 (F) C Barwell 5-11-0 (7ex) N Mann
7 -6F0 MOTTRAM'S GOLD 25 (D,G,S) Mrs J Retter 6-10-12 M A Fitzgerald
8 3130 HYMNE D'AMOUR 40 (CD,BF,G,S) Miss H Knight 5-10-10 J Osborne
9 0FF8 BY FAR 6 (D,F) D O'Neill 7-10-7 V Slattery (5)
10 10-50 CHARCOAL BURNER 21 (D,S) R Callow 8-10-0 C Meade
11 55-6 NEARCTIC BAY 10 (D,S) T Bill 7-10-0 C Hawkins
3-1 Admiralty Way, 4-1 On The Line, 5-1 Hymne D'Amour, 6-1 By Far, 8-1 Mottram's Gold, 10-1 Caribbean Prince, 12-1 Madam Picasso, 14-1 others.

Pidgeon extends run with double

Point-to-point by Brian Beel

JENNY Pidgeon continued her impressive run of success when she saddled two five-year-olds to capture divisions of the maiden at the **Bicester and Whaddon** point-to-point on Saturday.

Ridden by Jon Trice-Rolph, both were making their debuts and were easy to back. Orchestral Suite already looked to have his race won when Fighting Mariner fell at the last, while Music In The Night got up in the final stride to win by a short head.

However, it was Ian McKie, a previous rider of the Pidgeon horses, who produced the most impressive winner of the meeting, the former handicap chaser One More Knight, in the open.

At the **East Devon**, Tom Greed showed his experience when Tapster Lad was the last horse to finish, but was still the winner of a division of the maiden. It was achieved after the continuing saga of horses being waved past the jump after a first-circuit fall. Greed was well in arrears and pulled up at the fence. However, he saw that there was room to jump it safely, retraced and ambled in behind the rest knowing that they all would be disqualified.

Randolph Place has qualified to run in the Cheltenham Foxhunter Chase by taking the open at the **Lanarkshire and Renfrew** under Ian Stark. Those who witnessed him, not jumping well and barely lasting home, are unlikely to be in a hurry to back him.

Top honours of the day went to Russki who, under Alison Dare, shattered the Badbury course record at the **Hursley Hambledon** when winning the ladies' event in a time of 5min 56sec.

Results, see facing page

WINDSOR

THUNDERER
2.20 Cultured. 2.50 Interpretation. 3.20 Nordansk. 3.50 Brave Defender. 4.20 Darkbrook. 4.50 RED BEAN (nap). 5.25 Soleil Dancer.

GOING: FIRM SIS

2.20 THAMES NOVICES HURDLE (£1,480: 2m) (10 runners)
1 60-5331 ROGER'S PAL 7 (G) (K Higson) A Moore 5-11-7 G Moore 77
2 P0F CRYSTAL HEIGHTS (FR) 13 (J Joseph) J Joseph 5-11-0 D Skyrme —
3 612 CULTURED 10 (CD,BF,S) (B Whitehorn) J White 4-11-0 N Williamson ●
4 KIMBERS 222F (Mrs W Tolloch) S Mellor 5-11-0 M Perrett —
5 4004 RIVER CONSORT 10 (Sir Harry Moore) A Dunn 5-11-0 A Maguire 74
6 P00 SALUTING WALTER 33 (Ms K Valentini) I Campbell 5-11-0 R Campbell 61
7 0 FORT-GALAS PRIDE 21 (N Criddle) P Hobbs 5-10-9 Peter Hobbs —
8 6 ALBEMINE 13 (P Burrell) Mrs J Cecil 4-10-7 T Kent —
9 P03 SNAPPY'S BOY JOSH 19 (R Wright) P Felden 4-10-7 H Davies —
10 43 KASISI 17 (Mrs D Blackburn) J Webber 4-10-2 A Webb 77
BETTING: 5-4 Cultured, 3-1 Albemine, 8-1 Rogers Pal, River Consort, 12-1 Kimbers, 14-1 Kasisi, 16-1 others.
1992: RATIFY 5-11-0 J Osborne (4-7 fav) Miss H Knight 19 ran

FORM FOCUS
ROGER'S PAL beat Cloghran Lad 3½l in 10-runner Plumpton (2m 1f, good) selling handicap hurdle. CULTURED 2l 2nd of 11 to Nocatchum in Stratford (2m 110yd, good to soft) novice hurdle. RIVER CONSORT 15½l 4th of 12 to Land Afar in Stratford (2m 110yd, good) novice hurdle. ALBEMINE, maiden winner over a mile on Flat, 15½l 5th of 13 to Salmond in Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good) novice hurdle in which CRYSTAL HEIGHTS (3lb better off) fell 3 out. KASISI 13½l 3rd of 5 to Indian Run in Sandown (2m 110yd, good) novice hurdle. KIMBERS useful 1m 4f Flat winner two seasons ago.
Selection: CULTURED (nap)

2.50 EBF NOVICES CHASE (£2,368: 2m 5f) (4 runners)
1 130-1F2 INTERPRETATION 80 (B,BF,F) (J Henderson) N Henderson 7-11-9 J R Kavanagh ●
2 0-00004 VITAL SCORE 30 (Mrs A Pollard) J King 7-11-2 A Maguire —
3 543026 FIGHT TO WIN 25 (V,F,G) (P Mellon) I Balding 5-10-7 J Frost —
4 333F0U TOP IT ALL 25 (B,G) (Three Ply Racing) M Ryan 5-10-7 S Smith Eccles 84
BETTING: 5-4 Interpretation, 6-4 Fight To Win, 7-1 Top It All, 12-1 Vital Score.
1992: COE 6-11-2 L Harvey (100-30) R Akehurst 17 ran

FORM FOCUS
INTERPRETATION last time 1l 2nd of 5 to Not So Soon in Fakenham (2m 5f 110yd, soft) novice chase. VITAL SCORE distance 4th of 7 to Mutual Manner in Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good) novice chase. TOP IT ALL unseated rider at 4th behind Antrim in 13-runner Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft) novice chase. FIGHT TO WIN fair hurdler at best, 27l 6th of 12 to Tipo in Chepstow (3m 110yd, soft) novice chase.
Selection: INTERPRETATION

3.20 FINAL SELLING HURDLE (£1,822: 2m) (10 runners)
1 0133-42 IN THE SPOTLIGHT 189 (B,G) (I Moore) R Curtis 5-11-7 D Morris 82
2 4-P3 COBB GATE 20 (P Stevens) B Stevens 5-11-0 M Stevens (7) ●
3 P TANGHOE 88 (Mrs H Fetherston) Mrs H Fetherston 5-11-0 D Skyrme —
4 NO PAIN NO GAIN (Mrs B Curley) B Curley 5-11-0 E Murphy —
5 0P-6 ANNE'S BANK 65F (N Jones) A Moore 5-10-9 G Moore —
6 600 NORDANSK 16F (D Knight) M Madgwick 4-10-7 A Maguire —
7 P THREEBUCK CREEK 7 (J Baugh) R Ingram 4-10-7 S Arnold (7) —
8 6 WELL DONE RORY 10 (W Glover) J White 4-10-7 B Clifford (3) 83
9 0060 DARING TROUBLE 21 (The Thorne Boys) G Charles-Jones 4-10-2 D Meade (7) 75
10 00060 LADY RANDOLPH 90 (M Spore) I Campbell 4-10-2 R Campbell 73
BETTING: 3-1 Cobb Gate, 4-1 No Pain No Gain, 9-2 Nordansk, 6-1 In The Spotlight, 7-1 Well Done Rory, 10-1 Lady Randolph, 12-1 others.
1992: APPLIANCEOFSCIENCE 5-11-0 A Harnett (6-1) A Reid 13 ran

FORM FOCUS
IN THE SPOTLIGHT 10l 2nd of 6 to Manhattan Boy in Plumpton (2m 4f, good) selling handicap hurdle. COBB GATE 12l 3rd of 12 to Anlaf in Newton Abbot (2m 1f, soft) selling novice hurdle. ANNE'S BANK 53½l 6th of 11 to Andrews Minstrel in Plumpton (2m 1f, heavy) novice hurdle. NORDANSK takes big drop in class after three well-beaten runs in good races. WELL DONE RORY 36l 5th of 12 to Land Afar in Stratford (2m 110yd, good) novice hurdle. DARING TROUBLE 61l 3rd of 18 to Miss Equita in Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good) claiming maiden hurdle. LADY RANDOLPH 27l 7th of 9 to Tip It In in Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft) selling novice handicap hurdle.
Selection: COBB GATE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
N Henderson	11	40	27.5	M Pitman	8	31	25.8
O Sherwood	9	39	23.1	B Clifford	3	13	23.1
Mrs J Pitman	11	51	21.6	D Bridgwater	3	14	21.4
P Hobbs	9	45	20.0	N Williamson	6	29	20.7
K Bailey	4	22	17.4	P Holley	5	25	20.0
D Grissell	3	21	14.3	M Perrett	5	35	14.3

3.50 GEORGE S HALL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,028: 3m 4f 110yd) (5 runners)
1 043111 QUIRINUS 122 (Mrs C Morgan) K Morgan 11-11-10 J Bradley —
2 P30451 MISTER ED 14 (F,G,S) (The Tallang Horse Partnership) R Curtis 10-11-7 D Morris ●
3 024255 FARM WEEK 46 (D,F,G,S) (Lord Chetwode) G Balding 11-11-4 A Maguire 98
4 2P5321 BRAVE DEFENDER 13 (C,F,G) (J Henderson) J White 9-10-8 N Williamson 93
5 /1-PPSP DUNRAVEN ROYAL 7 (B,F,S) (S Glazer) R Curtis 10-10-0 G Crone (7) 72
Long handicap: Dunraven Royal 9-10.
BETTING: 2-1 Mister Ed, 9-4 Brave Defender, 3-1 Farm Week, 8-1 Quirinus, 16-1 Dunraven Royal.
1992: ROYAL BATTERY 9-11-1 R Greene (2-1 fav) D Barons 9 ran

FORM FOCUS
QUIRINUS won Pardubice (4m 2f 110yd) in Czechoslovakia in October. MISTER ED beat Little General 8l in 6-runner Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good to firm) handicap chase. FARM WEEK 16l 5th of 15 to Mr Setaside in Leicester (3m, good to soft) handicap chase on penultimate start with MISTER ED (6lb better off) 5l 7th. BRAVE DEFENDER beat On The Hooch 3½l in 6-runner Sedgefield (2m 5f, good to firm) handicap chase.
Selection: MISTER ED

4.20 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HURDLE (£1,995: 2m 6f 110yd) (5 runners)
1 30-61 GREY HUSSAR 33 (CD,S) (Lord Plummer) N Henderson 7-11-8 J R Kavanagh 87
2 /3/0U43 BRIGHTLING BOY 31 (M Hayden) D Grissell 8-11-2 Peter Hobbs 78
3 50 BUCKSHOT 59 (B Woolnoo) C Williams 5-11-2 T Kent —
4 542242 DARKBROOK 14 (W Dore) D Gandolfo 6-11-2 P Holley ●
5 0/0000 CLASS MATE 19 (R Townsend) R Townsend 6-10-11 W McFarland —
BETTING: 5-4 Darkbrook, 6-4 Grey Hussar, 6-1 Brightling Boy, 20-1 Buckshot, 33-1 Class Mate.
1992: VAL D'AUTHIE 4-11-0 P Scudamore (9-2) M Pipe 19 ran

FORM FOCUS
GREY HUSSAR beat Woodside Heath 3l in 11-runner novice handicap hurdle over course and distance (soft). BRIGHTLING BOY 4l 3rd of 10 to Fotoexpress in Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, soft) claiming novice hurdle. BUCKSHOT tailed off 16th of 18 to Mr Pickpocket in Towcester (2m, heavy) National Hunt flat race. DARKBROOK 2½l 2nd of 9 to Irish Bay in Fontwell (2m 6f, good to firm) novice hurdle. CLASS MATE 53l 10th of 13 to Greenwich Bambi in Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft) novice hurdle.
Selection: GREY HUSSAR

4.50 COLLEGE NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£1,480: 2m) (6 runners)
1 20-5315 RED BEAN 17 (D) (B Thrift) J O'Donoghue 5-11-7 A Dicken (5) 92
2 5-040 FICHU 84 (M Haddell) G Thorner 5-11-0 D Bridgwater 87
3 00PP05 LAFHEEN 12 (D Foster) Miss A Pamas 5-11-0 D Skyrme —
4 00-060 MAJOR BUSH 26 (T Johnsey) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-0 M Pitman 98
5 003/ ROYAL FOOL 681 (F Clark) O Sherwood 7-11-0 J McCarthy (5) —
6 00-303 STRONG MEDICINE 21 (Dr D Sills) K Bailey 6-11-0 J Railton ●
BETTING: 2-1 Strong Medicine, 3-1 Major Bush, 7-2 Red Bean, 7-1 Fichu, 8-1 Royal Fool, 20-1 Lafheen.
1992: OFF PISTE 6-11-0 R Dunwoody (4-7 fav) N Henderson 12 ran

FORM FOCUS
RED BEAN 19½l 5th of 10 to Duke Of Apollo in Sandown (2m 110yd, good) novice hurdle. Previously beat Clipper One 1½l in 9-runner Lingfield (AW, 2m) maiden hurdle. FICHU 24l 7th of 18 to Oats Regress in Ludlow (2m, good to soft) novice hurdle. LAFHEEN 14½l 5th of 6 to Thalcot in Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good) novice handicap hurdle. MAJOR BUSH 13l 6th of 18 to Parlay in Leicester (2m, good to soft) novice hurdle on penultimate start. ROYAL FOOL 9½l 3rd of 19 to Damanour in Hexham (2m, firm) novice hurdle. STRONG MEDICINE 16l 3rd of 16 to Admiralty Way in Hereford (2m 1f, good) novice hurdle.
Selection: STRONG MEDICINE

5.25 HELEN AND MARTIN GOT HITCHED HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,406: 2m) (7 runners)
1 314213 ABSENT RELATIVE 27 (D,G) (Mrs J Froome) Miss B Sanders 5-11-10 A Maguire 97
2 U43431 SOLEIL DANCER 16 (CD,S) (Mrs J Grist) D Grissell 5-11-3 Peter Hobbs 94
3 111- TAKE TWO 299 (D,F) (B Gatensbury) J White 5-10-12 B Clifford (3) 93
4 432041 ALOSAILI 18 (D,G) (L Gilbert) B Stevens 6-10-3 M Stevens (7) 90
5 F-00452 WILL JAMES 10 (B,CD,F,S) (C Drewe) C Drewe 7-10-1 J Railton 96
6 553244 VA UTU 11F (D,F,S) (M Curry) M Channon 5-10-1 Lorna Vincent 97
7 0-03104 SING THE BLUES 13 (D) (B Hogan) D Sasse 9-10-0 D Bridgwater ●
Long handicap: Sing The Blues 9-12.
BETTING: 5-2 Soleil Dancer, 7-2 Absent Relative, 9-2 Take Two, 6-1 Will James, 8-1 Va Utu, 10-1 Alosaili, 12-1 Sing The Blues.
1992: TOMAHAWK 5-10-0 D Matthews (4-7 fav) R Holder 5 ran

FORM FOCUS
ABSENT RELATIVE 12½l 4th (promoted to 3rd) of 10 to subsequently disqualified Kaen Vision in Lingfield (AW, 2m 4f) handicap hurdle with SING THE BLUES (7lb better off) 13l 7th. SOLEIL DANCER beat Clever Dick 12l in 7-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance (soft). TAKE TWO completed treble when beating Tapatch 2½l in 11-runner Cartmel (2m 1f, good to firm) novice hurdle. ALOSAILI beat Passo All'erta short head in 15-runner Taunton (2m 1f, good) selling handicap hurdle. WILL JAMES short head 2nd of 12 to Le Vaudan in Stratford (2m 110yd, good to soft) handicap hurdle.
Selection: ABSENT RELATIVE

□ Frankie Dettori retained the Young Jockeys' World Championship at Nakayama, Japan, yesterday. He won three of the four races involved, amassing 70 points, 38 clear of Japan's Katsuharu Tanaka.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
2.30 Mudgee. 3.00 No Submission. 3.30 Golden Klair. 4.00 Prime Mover. 4.30 Tempering. 5.00 Love Legend.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.30 ODDS AGAINST MAIDEN GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES (3-Y-O: £2,070: 6f) (9)
1 0-6 BIG-W 31 Ronald Thompson 9-0 O Pears (5) 7
2 06- DUVEEN 153 M Bell 9-0 M Fenton (5) 3
3 620- HAWAYMYSON 193 J Johnson 9-0 W Newnes 5
4 6442 MUSICAL PHONE 14 (B) J Leigh 9-0 Dean McKeown 4
5 3333 BELLE SOIREE 25 P McEntee 8-9 J Weaver (3) 6
6 650- MISS WHITTINGHAM 185 J Berry 8-9 P Roberts (7) 9
7 66- MUDGEE 87 T Barron 8-9 Alex Greaves 2
8 00- NIGHTMARE LADY 158 R Hams 8-9 J McLaughlin 1
9 00- WHAT BLISS 348 D Chapman 8-9 Carl Llewellyn (7) 8
9-4 Belle Soiree, 5-2 Musical Phone, 5-1 Mudgee, 6-1 Hawaymyson, 10-1 Duveen, 12-1 Miss Whittingham, 16-1 Nightmare Lady, 20-1 others.

3.00 BANKER CLAIMING STAKES (£2,280: 1m) (7)
1 0124 NO SUBMISSION 2 (CD,BF,G,S) D Chapman 7-9-0 S Wood 1
2 330- BESCABY BOY 188 (D,F,G,S) J Wharton 7-8-11 J Williams 5
3 000- SIE AMATO 151 (CD) J H Wilson 4-8-7 D Biggs 2
4 3105 DIGGER DOYLE 21 (CD) C Allen 4-8-4 F Norton (3) 3
5 0-41 ROUND BY THE RIVER 17 (CD,F,S) W Haigh 4-8-4 Dean McKeown 7
6 2002 NORTH FLYER 31 D Burchell 4-8-2 L Charnock 6
7 0 NOT ALL BLISS 14 G Kelly 5-7-11 Alex Greaves 4
6-4 No Submission, 2-1 Round By The River, 6-1 Digger Doyle, 8-1 Bescaby Boy, 10-1 North Flyer, 12-1 Sie Amato, 50-1 Not All Bliss.

3.30 SMOKESCREEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £4,347: 7f) (10)
1 -142 GOLDEN KLAIR 3 (CD,BF) C Hill 9-7 J Weaver (3) 7
2 180- BIRCHWOOD SUN 121 (F,S) R Hollinshead 9-0 W Ryan 3
3 -164 ABSOLUTELY FACT 11 C C Elsey 8-12 W Newnes 8
4 2141 MISTER BLAKE 4 (B,CD) W O'Gorman 8-10 (7ex) F Norton (3) 2
5 21 GREEN'S FAIR 10 (C) M Bell 8-7 M Hills 6
6 2112 STARDUST EXPRESS 4 (D,BF) M Johnston 8-2 Dean McKeown 4
7 000- ASTRAC TRIO 121 (B,C) S Norton 8-6 O Pears (5) 9
8 3421 ROSE FLYER 7 (CD) M Chapman 8-1 (7ex) D McCabe (7) 1
9 226- NUTTY BROWN 111 S Norton 7-10 Dale Gibson 5
10 0222 JORDYWRATH 7 (C) R Spicer 7-7 A Mackay 10
9-2 Green's Fair, 5-1 Golden Klair, 11-2 Mister Blake, 6-1 Stardust Express, 13-2 Rose Flyer, 7-1 Absolutely Fact, 8-1 Jordywrath, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS
TRAINERS: R Spicer, 9 winners from 32 runners, 28.1%; T Barron, 61 from 267, 22.8%; W O'Gorman, 36 from 174, 20.7%; M Bell, 11 from 60, 18.3%; C C Elsey, 3 from 17, 17.6%; Bob Jones, 3 from 18, 16.7%.
JOCKEYS: D McCabe, 6 winners from 23 rides, 26.1%; Alex Greaves, 59 from 243, 24.3%; J McLaughlin, 7 from 31, 22.6%; Emma O'Gorman, 30 from 176, 17.0%; O Pears, 8 from 50, 16.0%; N Day, 17 from 133, 15.6%.

4.00 IN THE FRAME CLAIMING STAKES (£2,385: 7f) (13)
1 10/4 SAVAHRA SOUND 16 (D,F,G,S) D Chapman 8-9-6 D Nicholls 2
2 0643 NEVENTER 10 M Chapman 4-9-0 V Smith 4
3 60 PRETTY CHIC 10 D Chapman 4-8-10 O Pears (5) 9
4 1151 PRIME MOVER 18 (V,CD) D Burchell 5-8-8 L Charnock 12
5 0806 CAL'S BOY 7 (B) J Smith 4-8-4 R Lappin 5
6 -20T CLAUDIA MISS 7 (CD,S) W Haigh 6-8-4 Dean McKeown 7
7 2225 ON Y VA 16 (CD,S) R Williams 6-8-3 D Biggs 11
8 33 WEE SARAH 24 T Barron 5-8-2 Alex Greaves 6
9 00-0 ROSE GEM 7 (D,F,G) R O'Leary 4-7-13 Dale Gibson 1
10 4140 SALLY'S SON 2 (C,D,F) W O'Gorman 7-7-12 F Norton (3) 13
11 -506 GRUBBY 17 (CD) R Hollinshead 4-7-11 M Humphries (7) 10
12 0/04 PRECIOUS CAROLINE 10 (B) P Condell 5-7-11 S Wood 3
13 /030 FIABA 7 (C,G) R O'Leary 5-7-8 J Fanning 8
7-4 Prime Mover, 11-4 Claudia Miss, 9-2 On Y Va, 5-1 Sally's Son, 12-1 Savahra Sound, 14-1 Fiaba, 16-1 Wee Sarah, 20-1 others.

4.30 DEAD CERT HANDICAP (£3,143: 1m 4f) (7)
1 2112 TEMPERING 3 (CD,F) D Chapman 7-10-0 S Wood 1
2 02-3 FIVE TO SEVEN 3 (CD) S Norton 4-9-13 O Pears (5) 6
3 6166 LOOKINGFORARAINBOW 16 (C,F,G) Bob Jones 5-9-4 N Day 3
4 /5-0 CASTLE SECRET 21 (D,F,S) D Burchell 7-9-1 L Charnock 5
5 5214 SUGEMAR 4J (CD,F) M Chapman 7-8-10 D McCabe (7) 7
6 353- FALCONS DAWN 98 (F,S) A Bailey 6-7-12 A Mackay 2
7 2423 BEDOUIN PRINCE 7 (CD) B Richmond 6-7-10 N Adams 4
5-2 Tempering, 4-1 Lookingforarainbow, 9-2 Bedouin Prince, 5-1 Sugemar, 6-1 Five To Seven, 12-1 Falcons Dawn, 16-1 Castle Secret.

5.00 HOT MONEY HANDICAP (£3,492: 5f) (7)
1 3111 CRECHE 3 (B,CD) Mrs N Macauley 4-10-7 (7ex) E Husband (7) 2
2 4532 LOVE LEGEND 9 (B,D,BF,F,G) D Arbuthnot 8-8-9 T Quinn 7
3 00-6 MAID WELCOME 51 (B,CD,F) Mrs N Macauley 6-8-3 Madeleine Smith (7) 6
4 16-0 SLADES HILL 7 (D,F,G) T Barron 6-8-1 Alex Greaves 4
5 1324 EWALD 7 (D) M Johnston 5-7-12 G Doyle (5) 3
6 3024 LE CHIC 11 (CD,F) D Chapman 7-7-8 S Wood 1
7 4211 HERSHEBAR 10 (B,CD) S Bowring 3-7-7 N Adams 5
9-4 Creche, 3-1 Hershebar, 4-1 Ewald, 9-2 Love Legend, 5-1 Le Chic, 10-1 Slades Hill, 16-1 Maid Welcome.

Cab On Target for Ayr

CAB ON Target is almost certain to bypass Cheltenham after losing his unbeaten record over fences in the Richardsons Oldbury Novices' Chase at Stratford on Saturday.

Mary Reveley's exciting prospect was sent off at 5-2 on to extend his winning run to four but, after an absence of almost three months, he failed to jump with his usual fluency and was beaten eight lengths by Bibendum.

"He needed this after his lay-off and we'd really have liked another week before bringing him out," George Reveley, the trainer's husband, said. "He'll probably miss Cheltenham and wait for the big Ayr meeting."

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S FIVE MEETINGS

Newbury

Going: firm

1.10 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Rosgill (D Murphy, 9-1); 2, Craig Of The Mist (13-2); 3, Knock Knock (5-2 fav). 8 ran. Hd, 2½l. M Tompkins. Tote: £9.30; £1.90, £1.50, £1.50. DF: £25.90. CSF: £56.10. Tricast: £155.03.

1.40 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Lift And Load (D Murphy, 9-2); 2, Flakey Dove (10-11 fav); 3, Kell (33-1). 5 ran. 6l, 8l. R Hannon. Tote: £4.50; £2.90, £1.40. DF: £3.10. CSF: £8.73.

2.10 (2m 4f ch) 1, Panto Prince (R Dunwoody, 3-1); 2, Lake Mission (10-11 fav); 3, Good Tonic (9-4). 3 ran. Hd, 20l. C Popham. Tote: £3.40. DF: £1.90. CSF: £5.62.

2.45 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Zamirah (P Scudamore, 2-1); 2, Snow Board (5-1); 3, Aremef (5-4 fav). 6 ran. NR: Dunnicks View. 3½l, 4l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £2.60; £1.80, £1.80. DF: £5.40. CSF: £10.93.

3.15 (3m ch) 1, Mr Jamboree (D Murphy, 6-1); 2, Mudahim (4-6 fav); 3, News Review (4-1). 4 ran. 6l, 12l. J Gifford. Tote: £6.30. DF: £2.60. CSF: £9.98.

3.45 (2m 4f ch) 1, Rocket Launcher (P Holley, 4-1); 2, South Harvest (12-1); 3, Goldinger (50-1). Gay Ruffian Evens fav. 9 ran. 4l, 5l. D Elsworth. Tote: £4.10; £1.40, £2.20, £4.80. DF: £12.40. CSF: £43.66.

4.15 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Far Too Loud (M A Fitzgerald, 100-30); 2, Stage Player (6-1); 3, Laundryman (8-1). Dagobertin 5-4 fav. 6 ran. NR: Certain Style. 2½l, 1½l. Mrs J Retter. Tote: £3.70; £1.60, £2.80. DF: £7.80. CSF: £16.98. Certain Style (7-1) deemed not to have started — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 10p in pound.

Jackpot: £2,310.70 (0.09 winning tickets; pool of £2,841.57 carried forward to Sandown on Friday).

Placepot: £745.50.

Doncaster

2.15 1, Jackson Flint (6-4 jt-fav); 2, Knayton Prospect (33-1); 3, Sweet Noble (11-2). Ross Graham 6-4 jt-fav. 8 ran.

2.50 1, Copper Mine (4-9 fav); 2, Keep Sharp (14-1); 3, Kannadabil (5-2). 3 ran.

3.20 1, Palanquin (3-1); 2, Midland Lad (3-1); 3, Vandki (5-1). Classic Statement 3-4 fav. 5 ran.

3.50 1, Damers Cavalry (5-1); 2, Kilhallon Castle (5-4 fav); 3, Ardcroney Chief (5-2). 4 ran.

4.25 1, Montpelier Lad (9-4); 2, Tapatch (11-4); 3, Charlie Dickins (10-1). Song Of Sixpence 13-8 fav. 4 ran.

4.55 1, Castle King (4-5 fav); 2, Wigtown Bay (11-1); 3, Takamethera (11-4). 6 ran.

Stratford

2.30 1, Almanzora (11-1); 2, Faithful Star (2-1 jt-fav); 3, Cotswold Castle (20-1). Old Bridge 2-1 jt-fav. 9 ran. NR: Duskomi.

3.00 1, Daily Sport Girl (4-1); 2, Another Vintage (17-2); 3, Ming Blue (25-1). Boogie Bopper Evens fav. 8 ran. NR: Aldington Peach.

3.30 1, Errant Knight (4-1); 2, Kittinger (8-1); 3, Driving Force (7-2 jt-fav). Five Concord 7-2 jt-fav. 7 ran.

4.00 1, Bibendum (5-1); 2, Cab On Target (2-5 fav); 3, Jim Valentine (14-1). 7 ran.

4.30 1, Fifth Amendment (5-2); 2, Gembridge Jupiter (9-2); 3, Raise An Argument (11-10 fav). 4 ran.

5.00 1, Olympian (8-11 fav, Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Wiso Customer (10-1); 3, Jimbalou (12-1). 7 ran.

Hereford

1.55 1, Emsboy (11-4); 2, Asolus (5-2); 3, Strong Fancy (11-2). Just 2-1 fav. 8 ran.

2.25 1, Casino Magic (9-4 fav); 2, They All Forgot Me (16-1); 3, Pithy (3-2). 7 ran.

2.55 1, Aldington Bell (6-1); 2, Sailors Luck (6-4 fav); 3, Celtic Catch (14-1). 6 ran.

3.25 1, King's Shilling (14-1); 2, Chatworth Raider (4-1); 3, Cabin Hill (5-1). Simone's Son 7-2 fav. 8 ran. NR: Kaktar.

3.55 1, Sylvia Beach (5-6 fav); 2, Tareesh (10-1); 3, Ace Smith (12-1). 11 ran.

4.25 1, No Escort (5-4 fav); 2, Knockumshin (2-1); 3, Master Eryl (3-1). 8 ran.

4.55 1, Thunder Bug (9-1); 2, Jarzon Dancer (7-2); 3, Cavo Greco (3-1 fav). 8 ran.

Lingfield Park

2.05 1, Knock To Enter (12-1); 2, Abseonal (5-2 fav); 3, Respectable Jones (7-1). 14 ran.

2.35 1, Ashover (5-1); 2, Arctic Guest (7-2); 3, Hatham Tarn (12-1). Neceamh 9-4 fav. 12 ran.

3.05 1, Rapporteur (11-4); 2, Nobber (3-1); 3, Double Flutter (11-4). No Submission 5-2 fav. 6 ran.

3.40 1, Chatham Island (12-1); 2, Amenable (12-1); 3, Merlins Wish (5-1 jt-fav). Allimson's Mate 5-1 jt-fav. 12 ran.

4.10 1, Heart Of Spain (4-1); 2, Good Image (13-2); 3, Scorcher (7-4 fav). 8 ran.

4.40 1, Hentu (11-4 fav); 2, Invocation (3-1); 3, Nobby Barnes (3-1). 13 ran.

JUMP LEADERS

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing mounts	Level stakes
R Dunwoody	133	92	68	3	-57.37
P Scudamore	115	63	41	2	-0.31
A Maguire	86	83	69	3	-21.28
P Niven	80	44	31	3	+74.34
J Osborne	65	48	46	1	-25.32
G McCourt	52	45	47	2	-31.24
C Llewellyn	51	36	37	3	+69.46
H Dougoty	49	29	24	0	-21.16
M Dwyer	48	48	35	11	-81.10
C Grant	44	40	34	0	-75.83

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Lying clear sls	Level stakes
M Pipe	141	79	67	1	-18.42
D Nicholson	80	54	33	3	+176.51
G Richards	71	48	34	1	-42.17
Mrs M Reveley	69	42	33	2	-34.84
N Twiston-Davies	49	32	27	1	+28.85
Jimmy Fitzgerald	46	41	29	5	-8.58
M Hammond	39	34	26	2	-34.07
N Henderson	38	28	27	2	-38.45
W A Stephenson	35	25	24	–	-66.50
J Gifford	35	32	28	1	-32.15

Minella Man plans on hold

MINELLA Man's challenge for the Sun Alliance Hurdle at the Cheltenham festival remains on hold despite a fluent victory over Disputation in the Ir£12,000 Irish National Hunt Stallion Owners' Novice Hurdle final at Navan on Saturday (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

His trainer, Anne Marie O'Brien, said afterwards: "It will give us quite a bit of confidence if it comes up soft. But should the ground be fast I would be inclined to keep him at home."

When Minella Man met Disputation at level weights in January there was a length between them. But now, on 2lb worse terms, Minella Man showed just how much improvement he had made by leading virtually all the way to score by 11 lengths.

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Russell fails to prevent fourth defeat

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JACK Russell's gallant attempt to rescue England A from defeat against New South Wales in Sydney ended in disappointment yesterday.

Russell, leading England in the absence of the injured Martyn Moxon, scored an unbeaten half-century before running out of partners and England A subsided to a ten-wicket defeat.

As long as Russell was batting, the English had a hope of saving the game, which began more than two hours late on the final day because of heavy early morning rain.

Russell shared a 69-run stand with Graham Lloyd in even time before the Lancashire batsman became one of the five victims of Wayne Holdsworth, the pace bowler.

England's last seven wickets fell for 148 runs as they collapsed to 208 all out, leaving New South Wales to score only 26 runs for victory. The A team's defeat was their fourth in eight tour matches.

Phil Emery, the New South Wales captain, questioned the state of English cricket and the attitude of the A team. "There have got to be some better players," he said.

"If these guys are their [next] best players, perhaps an attitude of trying to win the game might make them play better. They didn't seem to have a lot of purpose, and I think we were always going to win the game."

In Perth, Brendon Julian, the Western Australia fast bowler, took four for 82 against Queensland to take his tally for the Sheffield Shield match to nine wickets.

ENGLAND A XI: First Innings 238 (M N Lathwell 103; D Freedman 6 for 89, G Matthews 4 for 40).

Second Innings

T C Middleton c Emery b Freedman	20
M A Roseberry lbw b Holdsworth	5
M N Lathwell lbw b Holdsworth	0
P J Prichard c Emery b Freedman	34
J Boiling b Matthews	1
G D Lloyd b Holdsworth	42
D J Capel lbw b Freedman	21
*†R C Russell not out	51
A R Caddick lbw b Freedman	0
D J Millns c Bevan b Holdsworth	14
P M Such b Holdsworth	0
Extras (b 9, lb 9, w 1, nb 2)	21
Total	208

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-17, 3-54, 4-71, 5-73, 6-102, 7-171, 8-176, 9-208

BOWLING: Holdsworth 16-1-47-5; McGrath 5-0-12-0; Matthews 25-9-61-1; Freedman 32-11-59-4; Bayliss 3-0-11-0.

NEW SOUTH WALES: First Innings

M Slater c Russell b Caddick	2
R Chee Quee b Caddick	90
A Gilchrist c Capel b Boiling	47
M Bevan c Boiling b Millns	170
T Bayliss b Caddick	52
B McNamara not out	22
*P Emery c Russell b Such	15
G Matthews not out	6
Extras (lb 10, w 1, nb 6)	17
Total (6 wkts dec)	421

D Freedman, W Holdsworth and G McGrath did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-110, 3-194, 4-356, 5-387, 6-412.

BOWLING: Millns 32-3-103-1; Caddick 36-11-68-3; Capel 19-3-45-0; Such 39-10-84-1; Boiling 47-11-111-1

Umpires: I Thomas and I Jackson.

Fletcher reveals captaincy contenders

Stewart favours Gooch style of firm leadership

FROM PETER BALL IN COLOMBO

AFTER a 13-hour journey from Delhi, England's weary players began a two-day break in Sri Lanka, the island of serendipity, yesterday. It constitutes the longest break of their tour but anybody who takes it as a sign there will be a lighter touch under Alec Stewart is mistaken.

Stewart placed himself firmly in the Graham Gooch tradition with his first public views since temporarily taking over the captaincy. "I agree with the way Graham has had things set up over the last four years and I'm not going to start making changes," he said. "You have to work hard to be successful. Graham's approach was to work hard, train hard and play hard. That's what I believe in."

There is no encouragement for David Gower there. Keith Fletcher, the England manager, remained impassive while Stewart spoke but the stress on a continuity of approach will not harm Stewart's chances of inheriting the job on a more permanent basis if Gooch decides enough is enough. Yet Fletcher still refused to endorse Stewart as the automatic successor.

..."He is having his chance now," Fletcher said. "But it would be wrong to assume that Alec is being groomed to take over. He is one of the contenders but there are other people in contention as well."

There is little doubting Stewart's ambition. Yesterday, he insisted he was happy to look no further than the three matches in Sri Lanka. "I don't feel as if I'm on trial," he said. "I just want to carry on playing for England as long as possible. If I'm offered the captaincy, I shall say yes; if not, I'm happy to just carry on playing."

On his arrival back in England on Saturday, Gooch, 39, neither looked nor sounded like a man about to relinquish his post after losing the Test series 3-0 in India. He again confirmed he has made his last tour but parried questions about his future.

"I want to let the dust settle before I start talking things through," he said. To suggestions that he might be captain against Australia this summer, he said: "I still like playing for England."

The alternatives to Stewart are not imposing. Admirers of Michael Atherton will be disconcerted that he was not one of the names that sprang to Fletcher's lips. Mike Gatting was the first mentioned; Martyn Moxon, surprisingly, the second.

For someone who was so contemptuously treated in Yorkshire during his playing days, Fletcher has apparently a soft spot for the county. Like Blakey, Moxon evidently impressed him during his time as manager of the A team.

Yet it is hard to see how someone who is not considered good enough to make this squad could come in as captain and, although Moxon has his virtues, even as a county captain he is a long way from being a Mike Brearley.

On the evidence of this tour, Gatting cannot even be certain of retaining his place. He has done little to justify keeping Gower out of the side. Neil Fairbrother and Atherton may have stronger claims than either of Fletcher's candidates but it appears Atherton is being prepared for everything but captaincy.

Stewart's aggression may not make him a universally popular choice but, yesterday, he insisted that criticism of his apparent reluctance to leave the wicket was misplaced. "I don't mind fair criticism but I think one or two of the things written or said have been unfair," he said.

"I think I accept the umpire's decision. There is a difference between disappointment and dissent and I think that people have misread my disappointment with myself."

Robin Smith's full involvement in the Ashes series could be in doubt if he has to have a shoulder operation. He said yesterday he may need surgery on a long-standing injury that is hampering his throwing and will see a specialist on his return from Sri Lanka in two weeks.

☐ Geoff Boycott's 30-year association with Yorkshire ended at the club's annual meeting on Saturday when he was voted off the committee. Boycott, the former England opener, was one of the architects of plans to cut the committee from 23 members to 12 and to limit former players to one in each of four new regions.

There were eight candidates for three seats in his district and Boycott, the member for Wakefield since 1984, finished fourth behind Bob Platt.

Australia regain Test initiative

Wellington: Australia recovered from a tailend collapse to bowl themselves back into a dominant position in the second Test match against New Zealand here yesterday. New Zealand, who held a first-innings lead of 31, were 40 for three in their second innings at the close on the fourth day.

With the wicket at the Basin Reserve starting to take spin, Shane Warne, the leg spinner, could be the key to Australia's hopes of wrapping up the three-match series.

Australia began yesterday on 107 for two and Steve Waugh and Allan Border plundered a wayward attack on a slow pitch. But when Martin Crowe, the New Zealand captain, handed him the new ball in the 86th over, Danny Morrison cut a swathe through the Australian line-up. Only a spirited innings from Warne, who scored 22, helped boost the Australian total to 298.

Crowe, who hit 98 in the first innings of this game, had offered to resign after the first Test as criticism of his performance grew.

Morrison's figures of seven wickets for 89, his best in a Test, included those of Waugh for 75 and Border for 30.

Craig McDermott, the Australian pace bowler, struck back, taking the wickets of Mark Greatbatch and Crowe in his first four overs.

At one stage New Zealand were nine for two. The introduction of Paul Reiffel in the eighteenth over proved disastrous for them. The medium-pace bowler dismissed the in-form Ken Rutherford, caught behind for 11.

Late in the final session Warne looked increasingly dangerous, beating the bat of the out-of-form Andrew Jones and Tony Blain several times. Jones, 20 not out, survived two confident appeals from Warne.

One attempted stumping required the services of the third umpire. He decided in the batsman's favour after viewing a videotape replay.

After the close of play on the third day, the umpires awarded Crowe an extra run after reviewing videotape of an incident in the first session. A shot that David Boon appeared to field just short of the boundary with his foot was judged to have crossed the line. The decision increased New Zealand's total by one run, to 329. *(Reuter)*

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings.

M J Greatbatch c Taylor b Reiffel	61
J G Wright c Healy b Hughes	72
A H Jones b Reiffel	44
*M D Crowe b McDermott	98
K R Rutherford c Healy b Hughes	32
†T E Blain b Hughes	1
C L Cairns c Border b McDermott	13
D N Patel not out	19
D K Morrison c Warne b McDermott	2
W Watson c Taylor b Warne	3
M B Owens b Warne	0
Extras (b 7, lb 11, w 2, nb 10)	30
Total	329

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-111, 2-120, 3-191, 4-287, 5-289, 6-307, 7-308, 7-314, 8-314, 9-329.

BOWLING: McDermott 31-8-66-3 (nb 7); Hughes 35-9-93-3 (w 1); Reiffel 29-8-55-2 (nb 3); S R Waugh 15-7-26-0; Warne 29-6-55-2 (w 1); M E Waugh 2-1-3-0.

Second Innings

M J Greatbatch b McDermott	0
A H Jones not out	20
*M D Crowe lbw b McDermott	3
K R Rutherford c Healy b Reiffel	11
†T E Blain not out	2
Extras (b 2, w 1, nb 1)	4
Total (3 wkts)	40

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-6, 3-30.

BOWLING: McDermott 9-5-13-2; Hughes 8-4-12-0; Warne 10-7-7-0; Reiffel 7-4-6-1.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M A Taylor run out	50
D C Boon c and b Morrison	37
J L Langer c Blain b Watson	24
M E Waugh c and b Owens	12
S R Waugh c Blain b Morrison	75
*A R Border lbw b Morrison	30
†I A Healy c Rutherford b Morrison	8
M G Hughes c Wright b Morrison	6
P R Reiffel lbw b Morrison	7
S K Warne c Greatbatch b Morrison	22
C J McDermott not out	7
Extras (lb 14, nb 4)	18
Total	298

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-92, 2-105, 3-128, 4-153, 5-229, 6-237, 7-251, 8-258, 9-271.

BOWLING: Morrison 26.4-5-89-7; Cairns 24-3-77-0; Watson 29-12-60-1; Owens 21-3-54-1; Patel 1-0-4-0.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Victory cry: Marius Strazalka, from Germany, winning on his way to the final of the Challenge Martini International Epée Cup at the Seymour Leisure Centre, London on Saturday. Strazalka met his match in the Germany No. 1, Robert Felisiak, in the final, going down 5-3, 6-5. Felisiak, the world No. 22, was runner-up last year. Italy started clear favourites to win, with the world No. 1 and No. 2, Angelo Mazzoni and Maurizi Randazzo, in the team, along with the flamboyant Sandro Cuomo. Cuomo, off form, finished well down the order and only Mazzoni reached the quarter-finals.

The Great Britain national champion, Steven Paul, produced the best home result, coming twentieth, an improvement on his 28th place last year. He fenced with his customary flair during the preliminary rounds but lost to Slawoni Nawrocki, of Poland, in straight fights, 6-5, 5-2.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Schofield demonstrates gulf in class

France	6
Great Britain	48

FROM CHRISTOPHER IRVINE IN CARCASSONNE

AFTER only an hour's training together, and a fair measure of self doubt preceding yesterday's international, a hastily assembled Great Britain side compiled a record win in France. The return match at Headingley next month could well be an even greater embarrassment for France.

With proper preparation, a more comprehensive defeat — a reasonable assumption, given the overall patchiness of Great Britain's performance in Carcassonne — will raise a more fundamental question. How can the illusion of healthy European competition be sustained by such one-sidedness?

Apart from a win in Leeds three years ago, France have been defeated by Great Britain 13 times since 1986, when they managed a draw in Avignon. Yesterday's loss was their worst, if only for the makeshift nature of the opposition. Apart from maintaining their discipline, something of a triumph on past experience, every other aspect of France's game disintegrated.

Following a leaden beginning, Great Britain stormed the French defence with six tries in the last 24 minutes. Great Britain exercised tight control for much of the time and, in taking his international try tally to 30 in 40 appearances, three tries from Garry Schofield capped a fine captain's performance. A hand in two of the six other scores, combined with his creative influence alongside Edwards at half back, left France without hope.

France's stamina was exhausted after 50 minutes. The final quarter was a parade, with tries by Eyres, Ford and Edwards helping to surpass Great Britain's previous best performance on French soil, a 45-10 victory achieved two years ago.



Schofield: inspiration

SCORERS: France: Try: Dumas. Goal: Fages. Great Britain: Tries: Schofield (3), Hanley (2), Devereux, Eyres, Ford, Edwards. Goals: Currier (6).

FRANCE: J Frison (Villefranche; sub: P Bomati, XIII Catalan); J Garcia (St Esteve), P Chamorin (St Esteve; sub: E Castel, Albi), P Fages (Pia), C Sirvent (S Gaudens); G Dumas (S Gaudens; sub: R Clarke, Cannes), L Demacedo (Avignon; sub: P Torrellas, Pia); T Anast (S Gaudens), B Carrier (St Esteve), T Buttignol (Avignon), E Attik (Cannes), D Cabestany (XIII Catalan), D Amat (Lezignan).

GREAT BRITAIN: S Spruce (Widnes; sub: A Bateman, Warrington); J Devereux, A Currier (both Widnes), G Connolly, A Hunte (both St Helens); G Schofield (Leeds), S Edwards (Wigan); N Cowie (Wigan; sub: S McNamara, Hull, S McCurrie (Widnes), S Molloy (Leeds), R Eyres (Widnes; sub: M Ford, Castleford), P Clarke (Wigan; sub: G Joynt, St Helens), E Hanley (Leeds).

Referee: G Anesley (Australia).

NICESTER WITH WHADDON CHASE Mottingham). Hunt: 1, Bishop Orphen (T Bailey, 4-9 fav); 2, Going Under; 3, Funchen View. 8 an. Cont: 1, Sunny Mount (J Greenall, 2-1); 2, Mid Illusion; 3, Arctic Rose. 18 ran. PPOA I novice riders): 1, Bright Burns (R Swindlehurst, 3-1); 2, Uncle Peggy; 3, Shipmaster. 9 ran. PPOA (novice riders): 1, Electric Lad (S Pollock, 33-1); 2, Proverbial Luck; 3, Grecian Saint. 15 ran. Land Rover Open: 1, One More Knight (J McKie, 7-4 fav); 2, Snowdrive Chap; 3, Rose-Lane. 8 ran. Ladies: 1, Rusty Law (Miss K Ellis, 11-4); 2, Button Your Lip; 3, Roman Wood. 17 ran. Mdn I: 1, Music In The Night (J Trice-Rolph, 6-1); 2, Spartan's Saint; 3, Zambesi Boy. 15 ran. Mdn II: 1, Orchestral Suite (J Trice-Rolph, 7-2); 2, Tenform; 3, Orion. Hill Lad. 15 ran

BROCKLESBY (Brocklesby Park): Hunt: 1, Layedback Jack (Mrs J Dawson, 4-9 fav); 2, River Lennon; 3, Broad Street. 7 ran. Cont: 1, Regardless (Mrs J Dawson, 11-10 fav); 2, Firehelms, 3, O'Reilly. 7 ran. Ladies: 1, Bangerzmine (Mrs J Dawson, 2-5 fav); 2, Deep In The Arctic; 3, Deputy Governor. 8 ran. Open. 1, Cerats Major (D Applewhite, 5-2); 2, Mdme; 3, Myrces. 9 ran. Rest: 1, The Big Wheel (Simon J Robinson, 14-1); 2, Stoddi Farm; 3, Northern Walk. 11 ran. Mdn: 1, Hook Head (C Vale, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Chat-A-Long; 3, Coiled Spring. 13 ran.

CHEDDINGFOLD, LECONFIELD & COWDRAY (Parkland): Hunt: 1, Pat Alaska (Miss C Wiles, 3-1); 2, Regal Scruple; 3, Fifth Pusilier. 5 ran. Cont: 1, Trespasyne (A Sloan, 25-1); 2, Which Way Now; 3, Get Up. 14 ran. PPOA: 1, No Parole (J Van Praagh, 8-1); 2, Corrado; 3, Always Talking. 10 ran. Tattenger Ladies: 1, Maltby Bay (Mrs A Heckman, 5-11 fav); 2, Cardinal Ralph; 3, Samson. 7 ran. Open: 1, Cert's Choice (G Cooper, 1-4 fav); 2, Disneyland; 3, Rivalscarrer. 5 ran. Mdn I: 1, Perphemos (P Scouller, 4-1); 2, Dark Phantom; 3, Rarely Al Odds. 11 ran. Mdn II: 1, Clover Coin (Mrs J Parris, 4-1); 2, Le Moulin; 3, D'You Mind. 12 ran. Cont II: 1, Watchman's Gully (T McCarthy, 5-4 fav); 2, Topping-The-Bill; 3, Magic Shot. 6 ran.

DERWENT (Osmotherley Park): Hunt: 1, G Derek (C Candlish, 5-2); 2, Sherwood Hope. Only 2 finished. 4 ran. Cont: 1, Knockleur (S Brisby, 1-2 fav); 2, Oriel Boy; 3, Langrouse. 17 ran. Open: 1, Sam Lochen (N Tutty, 6-4 fav); 2, Level Quay; 3, Elegant Guest. 13 ran. Rest I: 1, Magic Wisp (Mrs J Brown, 2-1); 2, Young Gun; 3, Pennine Pride. 13 ran. Rest II: 1, Only Me (N Wilson, 4-5 fav); 2, Preest; 3, Mahsena. 4 (novice riders): 1, Electric Lad (Mrs J 12 ran. Tattenger Ladies: 1, Air Marie (Mrs J Sleight, Evens fav); 2, Quips; 3, Rhydboat Queen. 11 ran. Mdn I, pt I: 1, Monkey Run (S Swiers, 6-4); 2, Berkshire; 3, Tulane. 13 ran. Mdn I, pt II: 1, St Gregory (Capt J Beardsell, 6-4 fav); 2, Stormsteel Boy; 3, Smart Pet. 13 ran. 4 ran); 2, Stormsteel Boy; 3, Smart Pet. 13 ran. Mdn II: 1, Prospecting (S Swiers, 6-4 fav); 2, McCartney; 3, Mighty Mike. 17 ran.

DUKE OF BEAUFORT'S (Didmarton): Hunt: 1, Mirage Day (S Bush, 4-5 fav); 2, Major Wayne; 3, Ballinaboe. 7 ran. Cont: 1, Friendly Lizzy (J Farrant, 2-5 fav); 2, Fishing Season; 3, Barn Pool. 9 ran. Open: 1, Timlyn (A Kelsey, 2-1); 2, Moe Greene; 3, Gunner's Flight. 16 ran. Ladies: 1, Bold King's Hussar (Miss A Plunkett, 14-1); 2, Belissima; 3, Cream By Post. 5 ran. Open mdn I: 1, Scally's Choice (A Phillips, 6-1); 2, Big Minstrel; 3, Sweet Fudge. 14 ran. Rest I: 1, Holland House (M Pomfret, 7-2); 2, Ruby Toffee Apple; 3, Standaway. 11 ran. Mdn II: 1, Seek The Sun (R Sweeting, 14-1); 2, Seals Rock; 3, Young Brave. 16 ran. Rest II: 1, Dancing Dora (G Maundrell, 7-1); 2, Tiffanys Nedine; 3, Golden Sound. 13 ran.

DUNSTON HARRIERS (Ampton): Hunt: 1, Melton Park (N Bloom) finished alone. Open mdn I: 1, The Hoborian (P Harding-Jones, 11-10 fav); 2, Bekana Run; 3, Kellys Ber. 6 ran. Open mdn II: 1, Lakmon (P Harding-Jones, 6-1); 2, Mount Patrick; 3, Beau Salgneur. 8 ran. Ladies: 1, Easy Over (Miss T Bracegirdle, 7-2); 2, Robbie's Choice; 3, Sheckil. 11 ran. Open: 1, Gee-A (P Murphy, 4-5); 2, York Royal; 3, Knighton Lad. 6 ran. Rest: 1, Lord Richard (Miss P Clayton, 7-2); 2, Gold Valley; 3, Santano. 9 ran. Cont: 1, Roars Of Applause (W Sporborg, 4-7); 2, Van Dyke Brown; 3, Lamy Money. 9 ran. Brass (novice riders): 1, Old Thunder (N King, 16-1); 2, Cockstown Lad; 3, Hellsrunn. 11 ran.

EAST DEVON (Clyst St Mary): Hunt: 1, A Boy Named Sioux (R Down, 5-2); 2, Lucky Hanstar; 3, Maxine's Lass. 4 ran. Open: 1, Aherlow Glen (D Pipe, 2-1 jt-fav); 2, Badbier; 3, Dark Image. 10 ran. Cont: 1, Impy Corridor (R Atkinson, 3-1); 2, Redlips; 3, Spartan Dancer. 7 ran. Ladies: 1, Fell Mist (Miss C March, 11-10 fav); 2, Treble Charlie; 3, Little Lemon. 6 ran. Rest: 1, Majestic Spider (R Atkinson, 5-1); 2, Ivor; 3, Mr Golightly. 14 ran. Mdn I: 1, Allen's Rock (J Duncan, 5-4 fav); 2, Searcy; 3, Christmas Bash. 9 ran. Mdn II: 1, Topster Lad (T Greed, 20-1) finished alone. 11 ran.

EGLINTON (Bogside): Hunt: 1, Henry Hastings (J Cartner, 9-4); 2, Maclennan; 3, King Harry. 4 ran. Open mdn: 1, The Pride (J Foley (J Reid, 4-5 fav); 2, Kelpie The Colt; 3, Flower Of Scotland. 12 ran. Open: Randolph Place (I Stark, 1-5 fav); 2, Dundyvan; 3, Pelmahem. 5 ran. Ladies: 1, Agashiel (Mrs C McClymont, 1-5 fav); 2, Polly Vesty; 3, Moscow Mule. 6 ran. Rest: 1, Macmurphy (R Shiels, 1-5 fav); 2, Count Cota; 3, Crooked Streak. 7 ran. Cont: 1, Hill Ryde (R Shiels, 1-2 fav); 2, Fishermen's Quay; 3, Tudorfield Girl. 3 ran.

FLINT & DENBIGH (Eaton Hall): Hunt: 1, Rapid Wave (R Hewitt, Evens fav); 2, Highway Rambler; 3, Cold Imp. 6 ran. Mdn I: 1, Hannah Splendour (M Worthington, 12-1); 2, Coube Home; 3, Lastoftheswallows. 14 ran. Mdn II: 1, Lindsay Doyle (Miss C Burgess, 33-1); 2, Hayside; 3, Tara Boy. 9 ran. Mdn III: 1, Vegus Influence (D Barlow, 6-1); 2, Mister Hoofberry; 3, Moonside Lad. 18 ran. Cont: 1, Royal Cracker (J Barlow, 20-1); 2, Scallymere; 3, Nicolsons Dilemma. 15 ran. Open: 1, Equity Player (A Crow, 4-7 fav); 2, Technicor; 3, Konrad Wolf. 10 ran. Ladies: 1, Rosnard Quay (Miss C Williamson, Evens fav); 2, Shenbelly Boy; 3, Melancthy. 10 ran. Rest I: 1, Cliffie Gunnoe (D Taylor, 16-1); 2, Charlie Muggins; 3, Dandy Reason. 10 ran. Rest II: 1, Welsh Legion (J Barlow, 6-4 fav); 2, Disco Dan; 3, Lanson Pike. 14 ran. Intro: 1, Call Me Citizen (A Crow, 1-3 fav); 2, Grindley Brook; 3, Highwayside. 6 ran.

HURSLEY HAMBLEDON (Avington Ringe): Hunt: 1, Cheerful Kelly (Mrs K Bocket, 3-1); 2, Lady's Day; 3, Snapshot. 3 ran. Cont: 1, Ruby Fiesta (C Jewett, 4-5 fav); 2, Spitfire Jubilee; 3, Gods For. 7 ran. Ladies: 1, Russet (Miss A Dear, 9-11 fav); 2, Carnaac; 3, Shahest. 7 ran. Open: 1, Indian Knight (T Mitchell, 6-4); 2, Scally's Daughter; 3, Beach Grove. 7 ran. Mdn I: 1, Silver Skylark (Julian Pritchard, 1-2 fav); 2, Lovers Dawn; 3, Kate Dawn. 4 ran. Mdn II: 1, Winter's Lane (Julian Pritchard, 4-1); 2, Summer Stage; 3, Nosse Country. 8 ran. Rest: 1, Syndebarough Lad (M Fellon, 4-5 fav); 2, Mugwump; 3, Penhill Flame. 4 ran.

SOUTH CORNWALL (Great Trethew): Hunt: 1, Ellesendem (B Hellsman, 4-11 fav); 2, King's Ace; 3, Speedwell Express. 4 ran. Cont: 1, Maslera (Mrs C Worrescott, 6-4); 2, Khoja Aldermaston; 3, Polden Style. 15 ran. Ladies: 1, For A Lark (Miss M Turner, 10-11 fav); 2, Searcher; 3, Only For Love. 7 ran. Open: 1, Yahoo (B Hellsman, 4-6 fav); 2, Iowa Only; 3 finished. 3 ran. Intro: 1, Prince Soloman (W G Turner, 4-5 fav); 2, Tanner Lass; 3, Duke Of Alsace. 10 ran. Rest: 1, Sioux (P Trelogan, 7-2); 2, Vintage Velvet; 3, Mr Sunnyside. 12 ran. Open mdn I: 1, Holly Fare (J Dibley, Evens fav); 2, Kenston Pride; 3, Brynhill Alert. 13 ran. Open mdn II: 1, The Jogger (Miss T Brown, 8-4); 2, Derrywood; 3, Little Island. 15 ran.

TIVYSIDE (Penycae): Hunt: 1, Parkbridge (J Llewellyn, 4-5 fav); 2, Tuesday Member; 3, Grosvenor Mr Francis. 4 ran. Cont: 1, Gold Shot (T Jones, 4-1); 2, Daisy Miller; 3, Splitcake. 7 ran. Open: 1, Brunico (J Llewellyn, 1-2 fav); 2, Solars Pride; 3, St Helens Boy. 8 ran. Ladies: 1, Brown Falls (Miss S Lewis, Evens fav); 2, Robin Of Sherwood; 3, Zamzam. 6 ran. Rest: 1, Handsome Harvey (J Jukes, 5-1); 2, Fox Pointer; 3, Rhonda Valley. 7 ran. Mdn I: 1, Cam Count (J Llewellyn, 3-1); 2, Construction King; 3, Home Pool. 13 ran. Mdn II: 1, Sun Of Chance (J Llewellyn, 6-4 fav); 2, Hill Royale; 3, Valiant Friend. 11 ran. Mdn III: 1, Press For Action (D S Jones, 5-4 fav); 2, Dousing Dons; 3, General Hinton. 14 ran.

WEST PERCY & MELVAIN (Alnwick): Hunt: 1, Classic Beat (R Green, 6-1); 2, Major Rouge; 3, Growing Power. 11 ran. Rest: 1, Sadler Empress (Miss J Paterson, 20-1); 2, Royalist; 3, Jurisos Choice. 20 ran. Ladies: 1, Sasse Justice (Miss P Robson, Evens fav); 2, Centre Attraction; 3, Wall Game. 13 ran. Open: 1, True Fair (G White, 6-1); 2, Gunnetal Boy; 3, The Lady's Partner. 11 ran. Open mdn I, pt I: 1, Electric (Miss S Lambert, 10-1); 2, Anzame; 3, Worthy Speak. 10 ran. Open mdn I, pt II: 1, King Spring (A Parker, Evens fav); 2, Wild Buff; 3, Meanhope. 9 ran. Cont: 1, Dad-Henry (N Hargreave, 2-1 fav); 2, Royal Jester; 3, Westhalde. 13 ran. Open mdn II: 1, Hedley Mill (A Parker, 4-1); 2, The Right Guy; 3, Royalar. 17 ran. Open mdn III, pt I: 1, Ukor (R Hale, 9-4 fav); 2, Strong Character; 3, Recital Royale. 10 ran. Open mdn III, pt II: 1, Popeswell (Miss S Williamson, 4-1); 2, Late Greylake; 3, Baby Betty. 8 ran.

Fite is grateful for his chance

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

FOR a basketball team with pretentions to finishing fifth in the Carlsberg League and qualifying for the play-offs, Oldham Celtics are making a dreadful hash of games against some of the clubs above them.

Saturday was no different. "They're all too big, strong and powerful for us," Tom Hancock, Oldham's coach said of his team's most feared adversaries, which include the Guildford Kings, victors by 103-62 in front of a packed crowd in the Spectrum Centre.

But for Chris Fite, one of the Americans who are new to Oldham this season, Guildford's winning margin would have been even more embarrassingly wide. The 6ft 8in Fite, 22, from Latrobe, Pennsylvania, hit 26 points, the same as Guildford's joint top scorers, Lorenzo Duncan and Trevor Gordon. Not for nothing was Fite voted the player of the month for February. "I love it here, I'm very happy," he said, "and grateful for the opportunity."

His opportunity really presented itself when Hancock recently moved him out of the centre. "I'm not a physically intimidating creature and I couldn't compete with guys who outweighed me by 25lb," Fite said. "But now that he's moved me to the perimeter, I'm taking better shots from outside." The testimony to that was Fite's three three-pointers on Saturday.

London Towers are the only team in the top four that Oldham feel capable of beating and they, rejuvenated by Thursday's excellent 101-100 victory over Guildford in overtime, carried on the good work at home.

London trailed 56-46 at the interval against Leicester Riders before subjecting their opponents to a 31-10 burst from which there was no way back. Richard Scantlebury hit 32 points in London's 100-85 win.

Both the top two teams won. Worthing, the leaders, were comfortable 111-88 winners at home against Sunderland, but Thames Valley Tigers had to work harder for their 74-67 win at Derby Bucks, who had beaten them last month.

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Validly avoiding insurance contract

Pan Atlantic Insurance Co Ltd and Another v Pine Top Insurance Co Ltd

Before Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Farquharson and Lord Justice Steyn

[Judgment March 3]

When determining an insurer's entitlement to avoid a contract of insurance by reason of the insured's failure to make full disclosure, the question was whether a prudent insurer would view the undisclosed material as probably tending to increase the risk. It was not necessary to prove that the underwriter would have taken a different decision about acceptance of the risk had he been aware of *that material.*

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff reinsureds, Pan Atlantic Insurance Co Ltd and Republic Insurance Co, against the order of Mr Justice Waller made in the Commercial Court ([1992] 1 Lloyd's Rep 101), whereby he found that a treaty of insurance between the reinsureds and the reinsurer, Pine Top Insurance Co Ltd, had been validly avoided by Pine Top.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Steven Berry for Pan Atlantic; Mr Adrian Hamilton, QC and Mr Timothy Saloman for the defendant reinsurer.

LORD JUSTICE STEYN said that *Container Transport International Inc v Oceanus Mutual Underwriting Association (Bermuda) Ltd* ([1984] 1 Lloyd's Rep 476) was a decision of great importance on non-disclosure.

The Court of Appeal had there held: (a) that there was no requirement that the particular underwriter should have been induced to take the risk or to charge a lower premium than he would otherwise have done as a result of the non-disclosure: the sole yardstick was the impact on the judgment of a hypothetical prudent underwriter

(b) that it was not necessary to show that the non-disclosure would probably have had a decisive influence in the sense that the prudent underwriter would have declined the risk or would have written the risk on different terms in respect of the rate of premium or otherwise.

The decision had proved to be remarkably unpopular not only in the legal profession but also in the insurance markets. It had been argued that it had been based on an erroneous view of the case law before the Marine Insurance Act 1906; that the approach of the Court of Appeal to the interpretation of the 1906 Act had been wrong; that inadequate attention had been paid to the common law framework into which the decision had to fit: that it imposed an obligation on the insured to disclose virtually endless material about the insured's past; that it had tilted the balance in favour of the insurers to an extent which made it possible for insurers to avoid insurance contracts on the flimsiest grounds; and that the imbalance created had been detrimental to the insurance markets.

Given the fact that under the rule laid down in *CTI v Oceanus* only the reaction of the prudent insurer was relevant, the question had remained what the degree of influence of the non-disclosure upon the judgment of a prudent insurer had to be for the law to attach legal consequences to it.

It seemed to his Lordship that, apart from the prudent insurer point, the critical question debated in the case was whether a non-disclosure had to have a decisive influence upon the judgment of a prudent insurer or not. That question had been answered in the negative.

Having rejected the "decisive influence" construction, at least two feasible alternative solutions were open for consideration in *CTI v Oceanus*. The first was that a fact was material if a prudent insurer would have wished to be aware of it *in reaching his decision.* The second involved taking account of the fact that avoidance for non-disclosure was the remedy provided by law because the risk presented was different from the true risk. But for the non-disclosure the prudent underwriter would have appreciated that it was a *different and increased risk.*

The importance of the distinction between the two approaches could easily be demonstrated. Suppose that a shopkeeper took out a fire policy. 20 years ago he had had a fire. Subsequently he had introduced extensive fire precautions.

If the first approach prevailed, it would be easy for a prudent underwriter to say that he would have wished to be aware of all previous losses. If the second approach was adopted, the prudent underwriter might find it more difficult to say that the earlier fire had increased the risk. The first approach required far wider disclosure than the second.

His Lordship would not assent to the proposition that the immensely experienced judges who had decided *CTI v Oceanus* had consciously decided to make a ruling in favour of the first solution.

In his Lordship's view, the court was free to choose between the two solutions. He unhesitatingly chose the second and would rule that, as the law currently stood, the question was whether the prudent insurer would view the undisclosed material as probably tending to increase the risk. That did not mean that it was necessary to prove that the underwriter would have taken a different decision about the acceptance of the risk.

His Lordship said that on the evidence the judge had taken the view that the undisclosed material would, in the judgment of a prudent underwriter, have increased the risk. When it had come to evaluation of the evidence the judge had approached the matter correctly. His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Farquharson agreed and the Vice-Chancellor delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Ince & Co; Alsop Wilkinson.

Housing offer has to be fair

Regina v Wycombe District Council, Ex parte Hazeltine

Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Lord Justice Hirst and Mr Justice Peter Gibson

[Judgment March 3]

Where a local authority made an offer of accommodation to an applicant who was homeless so as to discharge its statutory obligation under Part III of the Housing Act 1985, the offer had to be one which, when it fell to be accepted or rejected, was made in the light of all the relevant circumstances known to the authority.

Accordingly, an authority failed to make a proper offer where the applicant was required to accept or refuse the offer before a potentially *relevant factor, medical evidence* relating to the applicant's children, had been assessed by the authority.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when (i) it allowed the appeal of Mrs Susan Ann Hazeltine from the judgment of Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, who, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division on December 7, 1992, *inter alia,* refused to grant an order of *mandamus* to compel Wycombe District Council to fulfil its duty to the appellant under the 1985 Act by making her a further offer of suitable accommodation, and (ii) granted a declaration that the *council did not fulfil its statutory* duty in making the offer on April 21, 1992.

Mr Andrew Arden, QC and Mr Gordon Wignall for the appellant; Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Jonathan Goulding for the council.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that the appellant was a deserted wife with two children, aged 10 and 8, who after her husband left the matrimonial home, valued at £160,000, in 1990 became homeless in August 1991 when the house was re-possessed after mortgage repayments fell into arrears.

The council found that the appellant fulfilled the necessary criteria under Part III of the 1985 Act, namely that she was homeless, was in priority need and she did not become intentionally homeless. It told her that it would make only one reasonable offer of accommodation. If she refused, no further offer would be made. It was *accepted that* the council was entitled to adopt such a policy: *R v Ealing London Borough Council, Ex parte McBain* ([1985] 1 WLR 1351).

The place offered appeared to the appellant to be rough and unsuitable and, after she explained to the council official that her children had behavioural problems, she was advised to obtain medical evidence from a general practitioner. If the council regarded that evidence as satisfactory a further offer might be made but not otherwise.

The appellant obtained supportive evidence from her doctor and the children's deputy head teacher but the district medical officer, after assessing that evidence, found that the council's offer was a reasonable one and the appellant was told of his decision.

In the court below the deputy judge had quashed the council's decision on the basis that the final decision on the medical evidence had been made by the district medical officer when it should have been made by the council's health and housing department in the light of all the evidence, but he refused to grant *mandamus* compelling the council to make a fresh offer.

Mr Arden accepted that the decision whether the accommodation was suitable was one for the council alone, but submitted that if the applicant had known that her medical evidence would not be acceptable to the medical officer or the council she would not have refused the offer when she did.

It was unfair that she should have to choose between refusing the offer, knowing that if her medical evidence was not satisfactory she would not obtain another offer, and accepting the offer thereby abandoning her case that the accommodation was unsuitable *on medical grounds.*

Mr Beloff said that there was nothing unfair in the council's conduct; the offer was declined and the council had no duty to make a further offer, absent a material change in the circumstances: see *McBain* (at p1356) *per* Lord Justice Ackner.

His Lordship could not accept Mr Beloff's argument. In *McBain* Lord Justice Ackner had referred to the housing authority fulfilling its statutory obligation to make a proper offer of accommodation, and presumably had in mind an offer of accommodation which was suitable for the applicant.

But the concept of a proper offer was not, in his Lordship's view, limited to the nature of the accommodation offered. If the offer was to operate to discharge the duty under the Act, the offer had to be made in the light of all relevant circumstances known to the council.

In the present case the council was aware that the medical evidence might be relevant, but the appellant was required to accept or refuse the offer before the potentially *relevant factor* had been assessed.

It was not fair that she should be required to commit herself before *knowing whether* a further offer would be made. Since the offer was made on incomplete information it was not a proper offer and was therefore not capable of discharging the council's duty under the Act.

In *McBain* the original offer was a proper discharge of the council's duty; it was held there that the duty revived with the change of circumstances. In the present case the original offer was not a proper discharge of the council's duty since, when it was to be accepted or rejected by the appellant, it was not made in the light of all the relevant information.

Lord Justice Hirst and Justice Peter Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Bruce Lance & Co, High Wycombe; Mr D. M. Dongray, High Wycombe.

No liability to tax on capital payments

Marshall (Inspector of Taxes) v Kerr

Before Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Peter Gibson

[Judgment March 3]

The effect of deeming provisions contained in section 24 of the Finance Act 1965 (capital gains on death) was to prevent a United Kingdom resident settlor of an *overseas trust from liability to tax* in respect of capital payments made to her by the trustees.

Nothing in the legislation required the words of section 24(7) and (11) to bear other than their natural meaning and thus to deem the taxpayer not to be the "settlor" for the purposes of the provisions of sections 80 to 85 of the Finance Act 1981 (concerning gains of non-resident settlements).

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr Simon P. A. Kerr, from the judgment of Mr Justice Harman (*The Times* November 13, 1991; [1991] STC 686) that had reversed a determination of a special commissioner discharging estimated assessments to the tax for 1983-84 and 1984-85 in respect of gains accruing to Mrs Kerr.

Mrs Kerr's father died in 1977 resident in Jersey. By his will one half of his personal estate was bequeathed to Mrs Kerr, a United Kingdom resident.

By a deed of family arrangement in 1978 Mrs Kerr settled her share of the estate on Jersey trustees to be held on trusts for herself and her family. Capital payments were later made from the settlement to Mrs Kerr.

Section 80 of the Finance Act 1981 applies to impose liability where the settlor was, when he made his settlement, domiciled and either resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom.

Section 24 of the 1965 Act provides: "(7) On a person acquiring any asset as legatee — (a) no chargeable gain shall accrue to the personal representatives, and (b) the legatee shall be treated as if the personal representatives' *acquisition of the asset had been his* acquisition of it.

"(11) If not more than two years after a death any of the dispositions of the property of which the deceased was competent to dispose ... are varied by a deed ... this section shall apply as if the variations made by the deed ... were effected by the deceased ...".

Mr Robert Venables, QC and Mr Robert Grierson for the taxpayer; Mr A. W. H. Charles for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said that the commissioner's concern had been as to the identity of the settlor of the settlement constituted by the will and varied by the 1978 deed, having regard to section 24 of the 1965 Act.

The commissioner had upheld the taxpayer's case that by the combined effect of section 24(7) and (11) the variations made by the deed were to be treated for all capital gains tax purposes as having been made by the testator and that Mrs Kerr therefore was not to be treated as the settlor of the varied trusts. Mr Justice Harman reached a different conclusion.

Mr Venables submitted that in failing to construe the statutory provisions literally the judge had adopted the wrong approach to construction and had given no reason why he had deduced from the Act that section 24(7) had only the limited purposes found by him.

Deeming provisions did not require the abandonment of the golden rule that in construing a statute the grammatical and ordinary sense of the words had to be adhered to unless that would lead to some absurdity or inconsistency: see *Re Levy, Ex parte Walton* ([1881] 17 Ch D 746) and Lord Asquith in *East End Dwellings Co Ltd v Finsbury Borough Council* ([1952] 2 AC 109, 132-3).

The correct approach in construing *a deeming provision was to* give the words their ordinary and natural meaning, consistent so far as possible with the policy of the Act and the purposes of the provisions so far as such policy could be ascertained.

But if such construction would lead to injustice or absurdity, the application of the statutory fiction should be limited to the extent needed to avoid such injustice or absurdity.

Nothing in the Act required the words of section 24(7) and (11) to be given other than their normal and natural meaning.

The limited purpose which the judge had found for those provisions could not be ascertained from the statutory language.

The Crown did not suggest absurdity or injustice flowed from a literal interpretation that allowed sub-section (7) to apply for all capital gains tax purposes.

Moreover, sub-section (11) seemed to confirm that for all the purposes of the tax the 1978 variation was not a disposal by Mrs Kerr.

In effect the testator in such a case was treated as having made the disposition in the deed by his will.

Lord Justice Simon Brown agreed and Lord Justice Balcombe gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Wragge & Co, Birmingham; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Health authority not liable over home registration

Martine v South East Kent Health Authority

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord *Justice Leggatt and Lord Justice* Hirst

[Judgment February 25]

There was no cause of action in negligence for the alleged careless investigation by an area health authority into a registered nursing home leading to an urgent application *under section 30 of the* Registered Homes Act 1984 for cancellation of registration.

The Court of Appeal so held in *dismissing an appeal brought by* the plaintiff, Josephine Martine, against the decision of Mr Justice Owen in the Queen's Bench Division on April 2, 1992 granting the application of the defendants, South East Kent Health Authority, to strike out two paragraphs of the plaintiff's statement of claim alleging a duty of care.

Mr Roger Ellis for the plaintiff; Mr Christopher Beaumont for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that section 30 of the 1984 Act was intended to provide an urgent procedure in cases where the area health authority believed there was a serious risk to the life, health or welfare of patients in a registered nursing home.

The check on that was that the secretary of state or the area health authority acting on the secretary of state's behalf was intended to act properly in a judicial or quasi-judicial capacity.

Mr Ellis submitted that the reality of the situation was that a justice of the peace would simply rubber stamp what was put before him *because if an area health* authority asked for cancellation of registration because of a supposed risk to the life, health or welfare of patients then the justice of the peace could not do otherwise than make the order sought for fear of the risk that a disaster might occur a few days later.

In his Lordship's judgment, that was in effect saying that the checks and balances that the statute provided would not work because justices of the peace did not have the courage to fulfil their duty.

If the area health authority failed to put an adequate case before the *justice of the peace it was the* justice's duty to ask for more information or reject the case.

There was no warrant consistent with Lord Keith of Kinkel in *Peabody Fund v Sir Lindsay Parkinson Ltd* ([1985] AC 210) for an extension of the law of duty of care.

A second line of reasoning led his Lordship to the same conclusion: dependent on the Court of Appeal in *Spring v Guardian Assurance plc* (*The Times* December 12, 1992). There the Court of Appeal had held that the giver of a reference owed no duty of care in negligence to the subject of a reference, since his duty lay and was governed in the tort of defamation. That reasoning applied equally in the present case.

In *Rowling v Takaro Properties Ltd* ([1988] AC 473) Lord Keith made reference to the danger of overkill. In his Lordship's judgment, in the present situation if an area health authority, in deciding whether it was appropriate to invoke the urgent procedure under section 30 was looking over its shoulder to see whether it was *exposing itself to a claim for* damages at the suit of a registered proprietor of a nursing home, it might be that an application which was in truth warranted would not be made until it was too late.

Lord Justice Leggatt and Lord Justice Hirst delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Nabarro Nathanson; Stilwell & Harby, Hythe (Kent).

When mother requires leave

In re S (a Minor)

Before Mr Justice Thorpe

[Judgment February 18]

The natural mother of an adopted child with whom she had had no contact since July 1989 was not a parent within the meaning of section 10 of the Children Act 1989 and therefore required the *leave* of the court before seeking an order for contact with the child. Such applications should be transferred to the Family Division of the *High Court and should not be* granted *ex parte.*

Mr Justice Thorpe so stated in the Family Division on dismissing an application seeking contact with the child.

Mr Rodger Hayward-Smith, QC, for the mother; Mr Robin Spon-Smith as *amicus curiae.*

MR JUSTICE THORPE said that before making an application for contact with the adopted child the mother required the leave of the court as she was not a parent entitled to apply for an order as of right: see section 39(1), (2) and (6) of the *Adoption Act 1976.*

An application by a natural parent for leave to apply for a contact order relating to an *adopted child should not be* granted *ex parte.*

There were no mandatory parties to an application for leave to *apply for a contact order. However,* the local authority concerned in the adoption arrangements should be informed and the Official Solicitor should be joined as a party.

The adoptive parents should not be joined or informed about the application in the first instance. If the court, after hearing from the local authority and the Official Solicitor, considered that there was a strong enough case to justify giving notice of the application to the adoptive parents, notice should be served on them by the Official Solicitor and not by the court.

In the present case the child had lived with the mother only for the first month of life and he had had no contact with her since July 1989 *when he was then aged one year.*

The principles stated in *In re O (a Minor) (Wardship: Adopted Child)* ([1978] Fam 196) applied. A natural parent would have to make out an extremely strong case.

An adoption order was intended to be final. A fundamental question such as contact should not be re-opened unless there was a fundamental change of circumstances. The application would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Coffin, Mew & Clover, Cosham; Official Solicitor.

Using medical report disclosed accidentally

Pizzey v Ford Motor Co Ltd

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Mann

[Judgment February 26]

Unfavourable medical reports obtained confidentially by a plaintiff for the purposes of personal injury litigation which were inadvertently disclosed on discovery to the defendants could be used by them at the trial. The defendants' solicitor reasonably believed that the plaintiff's solicitor had waived the privilege that attached to the reports so that the plaintiff could not rely on his solicitor's mistake to prevent their use.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mr Albert Pizzey, from the decision of Judge Goldstein in Bow County Court in July 1992 refusing to restrain the defendants, the Ford Motor Co Ltd, from using *at the trial two privileged documents* which had been inadvertently disclosed to them on discovery by the plaintiff's solicitors.

Mr Robert P. Glancy for the plaintiff; Mr Alan H. Jeffreys for the defendants; neither counsel appeared below.

LORD JUSTICE MANN said that the plaintiff's action was for damages for personal injury sustained in the course of his employment. A senior surgeon who had been involved in the plaintiff's case provided the plaintiff's solicitor with two medical reports that were adverse to his case. Shortly after, the surgeon had died.

In response to an order for discovery by Master Hodgson made under section 34(2) of the *Supreme Court Act 1981,* the plaintiff's solicitor sent medical records to the defendants and inadvertently included the two adverse reports.

Judge Goldstein had described it as "an act of gross carelessness" but refused the application by the plaintiff's solicitor for an injunction restraining the defendants from using the documents.

The appeal depended on an application of the judgment of Lord Justice Slade in *Guinness Peat Properties Ltd v Fitzroy Robinson Partnership* ([1987] 1 WLR 1027, 1045) that if on discovery a party or his solicitor either "(a) has procured inspection of the relevant document by fraud, or (b) on inspection, realises that he has been permitted to see a document only by reason of an obvious mistake, the court has the power to intervene *for the protection* of the mistaken party ..."

Had the defendants' solicitor realised that she had been permitted to see the reports only by reason of an obvious mistake? In her affidavit she had sworn that she genuinely believed the reports had been disclosed pursuant to the master's order.

Mr Glancy accepted that it had been wrong for the plaintiff not to have applied to cross-examine the *defendants'* solicitor so that the judge could have made an explicit finding as to what she had realised when she received the reports.

It was of the utmost importance in the context of litigation that a party should be able to rely on the discovery of his adversary. Exceptions to that ability must not extend beyond fraud and mistake. Cases of mistake were stringently confined to those which were obvious, that was to say those which were *evident* to the recipient of the document.

The onus was on the plaintiff to satisfy the court that a hypothetical reasonable solicitor receiving the reports ought to have realised that there had been a mistake. The documents had the appearance of the privilege they actually enjoyed. *But the court could not be satisfied* on probabilities that a reasonable solicitor would have realised that the privilege had not been waived.

She might have been surprised to receive them but on probabilities would not have thought other than that her fellow professional had waived the privilege in the simple discovery that was being made in response to the master's order.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith agreed.

Solicitors: Robin Thompson & Partners, Ilford; Wyeth & Co, Dartford.

Car is public place

Bates v DPP

A dangerous dog, as defined by section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, in a private car which was on a public highway was in a *public place, within the meaning* of section 10(2) of the Act and was therefore required to be muzzled and on a lead as prescribed by section 1(2)(d) of the Act.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Waller) so held on February 25 when dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by Henry Terence Bates against his conviction by Thames Magistrates Court that on December 4, 1991 at the Blackwall Tunnel Northern Approach Northbound he had in his possession an unmuzzled pit bull terrier contrary to sections 1(2) and 7(1) of the 1991 Act.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said that the wording of section 10(4) of the 1991 Act, except for a reference to a building with common parts, was in no way different from section 57(4) of the Firearms Act 1968 or section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 and that the existing case law applied.

Corrections

In *R v Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte Lee* (*The Times* February 15) the relevant magistrate was Mr J. G. Connor.

In *First Energy (UK) Ltd v Hungarian International Bank Ltd* (*The Times* March 4) the solicitors for First Energy were Davies Arnold Cooper, Manchester.

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THEATRE page 28
The dog who can't bark: a new children's play by Alan Ayckbourn at the National Theatre

ARTS

ROCK page 29
Always a lot of energy at a Deacon Blue gig, but where is the heart and soul?



OPERA: Cardiff's new production of a neglected Donizetti; Jonathan Miller's *Mikado* revived in London

Grand, but not a hit in sight

The Welsh National Opera's new production of *La Favorite* is the first in a series of revivals of more-or-less neglected 19th-century operatic warhorses sponsored by the Peter Moores Foundation, which invited suggestions from the regional companies. The Welsh selected the Donizetti; Scottish Opera's *Norma* follows next month, Opera North's *Gioconda* in May, and the Welsh will round the project off with a new *Lucia* in the autumn.

Friday's first night at the New Theatre in Cardiff was in many ways a curious occasion. For a start, just how good is Donizetti's French *grand opéra*, first given in Paris in 1840? Save for a fringe production in 1960 at the Scala (Charlotte Street, London, not Milan), *La Favorite* has not been seen in this country for 80 years. It was one of the composer's most popular works in the 19th century, both here and in France, where it stayed in the Paris Opera repertory until 1918. This century it has survived only in Italy and America, where it has mostly been given in Italian translation.

You can understand its appeal for Victorian audiences: a mezzo "fallen woman", indeed a king's mistress, Léonor, in love with a tenor nice monk, Fernand, who renounces his calling first to win military glory and then to marry her, only to discover — a little late in the day — who she is; disillusion, renewed monkish vows, and Unhappy End with Léonor dressing up as a novice for a duet of farewell before expiring from an unspecified disease. In case respectable listeners should become too sympathetic to Léonor, Fernand's boss mentor, Superior of the Monastery of St James of Compostela, is on hand to thunder out anathemas as and when required. Sex-and-religion a fail-safe formula.

Yet the plot doesn't hold a huge amount of water. Fernand is a goose, the only man in 14th-century Spain — and a courtier to boot — not to know who the king's mistress is, and his operatically eventful career, from novice to general to cuckold and back is only sketchily suggested by his music. Léonor is a standard tarnished angel, and the only interesting character is the shifty King Alphonse XI (baritone), willing to marry his adored mistress off to a convenient general before disappearing from the scene.

Donizetti cobbled the score together in some haste from various sources, which doesn't show too much: like Handel and Rossini he was too consummate a craftsman to leave seams exposed. The big ensembles are thrilling, the recitatives and ariosos fluid and imaginative after the French manner, and conventional rum-ti-tum is kept to a bearable minimum. There is a piquancy and freedom of harmony that Verdi was not to match for many a decade.

> *Favorite* is about singing, which is where the real problems begin

The main problem is that there are no hit numbers. Neither Léonor's "O mon Fernand" nor the tenor's "Ange si pur" are quite top-drawer Donizetti in the sense that "Una furtiva lagrima" is; Fernand's opening Cavatine is nearer the top of the store chest, and the best solo is the king's "Léonor, viens", a gloriously sinuous melody. But who wants to go to the opera for a baritone solo?

Nevertheless, given the creaky libretto, *Favorite* is about singing, which is where the real problems about Friday's premiere begin. Last year, WNO's general director, Matthew Epstein, said he planned to perform the piece in French because "that's simply the better version", and on the wireless last week the (Italian!) conductor Carlo Rizzi said bluntly that he preferred it in French. Yet the opera is sung in Italian, admittedly in a cleaned-up version of two censored and generally hacked about 19th-century Italian translations. Why?

Music composed for French singers to French words sounds French — see *Don Carlos* and *Vêpres siciliennes*. If you sing it in Italian, the "colour" is wrong. If *English-speaking singers sing it in* Italian, the colour is doubly wrong. Had it been in French, I suspect there would have been less of the generalised bawling that disfigured the first night. If it was to be sung in translation, then why not in English translation, in the language of the singers and the audiences? Had the performance been in English, one might have praised the sort of singers the WNO can afford for putting up "a good show" rather than regretted seeing capable artists end up with egg on their faces.

For the record, Bonaventura Bottone sang Fernand at a steady, graceless double *forte*, relaxing to single *forte* only for "Ange si pur" (*piano* might have been preferable). Bernadette Cullen's mezzo was too monochrome to make much of Léonor, and in her case the language controversy is irrelevant: she sang in a kind of all-purpose operatic Esperanto. Geoffrey Moses simply hasn't the weight of tone for Balthazar, and while David Barrell (Alphonse) tried to shape the music with sensitivity, he doesn't command the legato essential for Donizetti.

There was energy, colour and thrust in Rizzi's conducting, but not quite enough of the melancholy that is Donizetti's stock-in-trade. Rennie Wright's production, in John Gunter's handsome permanent set (too permanent for a piece requiring visual variety), relied heavily on stock operatic gesture.

RODNEY MILNES

DONALD COOPER



Colourful occasion: the wedding of Léonor and Fernand in Welsh National Opera's *La Favorite*

Really would be missed

It is anyone's guess just how near this *Mikado* is to the big black block. With *Rigoletto* now killed off at English National Opera, Jonathan Miller's seven-year-old 1920s romp cannot be far from the chop and everyone, from *the Lord High Executioner down*, seemed to know it.

As the cast sang, flapped, squeaked, danced and acted their hearts out as if there would, indeed, be *no tomorrow, a slight shadow* seemed to hang over this whiter than white production, which still dazzles with the power of the heady days of the Coliseum.

Those were the 1980s: these are the 1990s. Can we still be in the mood? The Little List is itself a merciless index of sociological change. Somehow the new catalogue — Mayle's Provence, Classic FM, Mellor, Camilla, and the new soap opera which very nearly rhymes with *Mikado* — doesn't seem quite so much fun as the swashbuckling swipes at the old Baroness and her entourage were in their buoyant day. And I was perhaps not imagining a slight chill in the air as we listened again to that other, unchanging list, about the offenders for whom the *punishment must fit the crime*.

There is still, though, plenty to divert and distract in David Ritch's meticulous revival. The little forgotten details spring back into new life: the double-take entry of the Lord High Executioner; the entry of the headless men; the tiny flurries of hotel life as the Madrigal is sung. Life goes on.

Most of this cast know their way well round the production. Old worthies such as Richard Angas and Richard Suart return as the Mikado and an increasingly Cleese-like Ko-Ko. It is Janis Kelly's turn as Yum-Yum, and "The sun whose rays" is never more radiantly sung. Her Nanki-Poo is the pert and precious Barry Banks in robust voice: his other, thwarted lover, the predatory Anne Collins as a Katisha of vintage stock. Michael Rosewell conducts a band which, perhaps, is beginning to feel the wind of change in its bones.

HILARY FINCH

TELEVISION REVIEW: **Benedict Nightingale** on a story of sun-kissed luxury and lost lives

Former glories and rich bitches

Last night's BBC 2 offering on *Screen Two* began arrestingly enough. It was a bright, Mediterranean morning on the rugged Mediterranean coast. Someone was frantically stuffing clothes into what appeared to be a bag and someone else was lying on a rock listening to pop music. A moment later the first of those figures was revealed as Anouk Aimée. She sat staring out to sea with a bleak pout on her face, hooked the bag-handle round her neck and jumped. And then the conveniently perched sunbather swung into his lifeguard mode and the play proper began, never to be so dramatic again.

Perhaps that was to be expected, given the twin subjects of the film that Lee Langley had adapted from Dirk Bogarde's novel. Voices In The Garden was partly about the emotional destructiveness of living in the past, partly about the ennui of the super-rich. In practice, that seemed rather often to involve Anouk Aimée and Joss Ackland, who played her dry-as-dust husband, fidgeting uneasily on their beautiful lawn or amid their exquisite possessions while the young and gorgeous gamboled and sparkled with erotic glee just beyond their sightlines. Someone was having fun, and it wasn't them or, come to that, always us.

And that was Archie, a glum mix of George Eliot's Mr Casaubon and the protagonist of *Death in Venice*. A self-styled historian and a closet homosexual, he spent his days doting, melancholy romantic poetry, collecting Napoleonic memorabilia, and not finishing his book about Bonaparte's short-lived son. Aimée was Cuckoo, so-nicknamed by her husband because of an old habit of "hopping from nest to nest" — or, as she herself put it, trying to find someone "to touch, to hug a little, and be held by". More frustrated people and a more mismatched couple would be hard to find.

Dramatic conflict, such as it was, was provided by the arrival of Cuckoo's rescuer, an impressionable English lad called Mark, and his girlfriend Leni, a pugnacious German Marxist who wore condoms for earrings. What would be their impact on this arid mansion, and its on them? The answers could have been less predictable, or at least more inventively conveyed. Ackland got increasingly edgy in a polite, English way, while the suicidal Aimée momentarily felt "I live again". Samuel West's Mark liked the fuss and the luxury, while Kashia Figura's Leni fretted.

In came a crowd of beautiful people, followed by a youthful mob of upper-crust vandals. In came Andre Oumanski as a creepy film-director and Gayle Hunnicutt to give a witty cameo as an American blithely squandering the end of her youth on trying to look as if youth would never end. The actors were talented, the performances sensitive — but where was the tension, the narrative momentum in Pierre Boutron's production? The effect was of a sumptuous elegy for lost lives, and elegies do not easily make gripping television.



Good life? From left, Gayle Hunnicutt, Samuel West, Kashia Figura, Joss Ackland, Anouk Aimée

OXFORD University has welcomed plans for a new £10 million theatre research centre to be used by both university students and professional directors. The Oxford Theatre Institute would be attached to the university, providing a pool of information on theatre history, recent performances and acting methods. It is not intended as a drama school, but as a base for archives gathered in a purpose-built building.

Supporters say that Oxford would gain a new research resource matching any other in the world. Directors producing a new version of an old play could visit the centre to research past productions, while students would come from all over the world to use its libraries. A working party set up by the vice-chancellor of the university, Professor Richard Southwood, has recommended that proposals for the centre be given the "highest priority".

The project is the brainchild of businessman John Cavanagh, who is offering his 30,000-volume collection of theatrical books and periodicals as a foundation for the centre. The Bodleian Library in Oxford is anxious to acquire the collection which would be complemented by the Mander and Mitchenson Collection of theatrical trivia, temporarily based in London. However, both archive collections cannot be sustained in their present homes and may shortly be put on the international market unless an initial £500,000 can be found to launch the Oxford scheme.

● THAT plucky soprano Lesley Garrett, who achieved a kind of immortality when she appeared clad in a black negligée on Tube posters advertising English National Opera, makes her comeback this week. At the Festival Hall on Thursday she sings in public for the first time since giving birth to a son on New Year's day. The choice of work? *The Creation*, of course.

Set on Oxford

ARTS BRIEFING

Bath's new treasures

A HONG KONG solicitor's priceless collection of Eastern antiquities is to form the basis of a new British museum. The Museum of East Asian Art, which opens in Bath next month, will exhibit 500 of the thousand items collected by Brian McElney during his working life in Hong Kong. McElney has now retired and will be the museum's unpaid curator. His collection is drawn from all over the Far East, and includes hundreds of rare Chinese ceramic pieces spanning 4,000 years, bronzes from around 1800 BC, and jade treasures, some dating back to 5000 BC. The new museum opens its doors on April 3, and will be housed in a converted Georgian house in Bennett Street.



Lesley Garrett: singer, mother and one-time poster star

● ALFRED BRENDEL has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Philharmonic Society, one of the highest honours in classical music. Previous medallists have included Brahms, Casals, Elgar, Rachmaninov, Sibelius, Toscanini, Stravinsky, Britten and Bernstein. The RPS has also announced that its annual prize for young composers has been won by Julian Anderson. He takes the £2,000 prize for his orchestral work *Dark Night*.

Last chance . . .

SINCE many exhibition-goers might see little of either gravity or grace in most of the sculptural installations made between 1965 and 1975, the title "Gravity and Grace" can be read as a challenge when applied to the major show on "the changing condition of sculpture" (Hayward Gallery, 071-261 0127, until Sunday). The show makes a fair case for the seriousness of artists like Joseph Beuys and Jannis Kounellis, who have often been dismissed as tricksters. The grace part is not so easy, but some works by Richard Long are surely beautiful by any standards.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

LONDON

LA DAMNATION DE FAUST. Berlioz's *légende dramatique* arrives at Covent Garden in Harry Kupfer's spectacular staging, first seen in Amsterdam in 1989. The outstanding American baritone Samuel Ramey is Mephistopheles. Colin Davis, an undisputed master of Berlioz interpretation, conducts.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-240 1066), 8pm.

L'ASSEDIO DI CALAIS. The enterprising opera department of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama presents the belated British premiere of Donizetti's 49th opera, complete with its Act III ballet (to be performed by students from the London Contemporary Dance School). Stephen Medcalf directs. Clive Timms conducts.
GSMD, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 6891), today, Wed, 7pm.

CHICK COREA. The ubiquitous jazz pianist and composer is back at the South Bank, but this time without his Elektric band and with his style of fusion — combining elements of jazz, rock and Latin — receiving minimal amplification.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800), 6.45pm.

DA CAPO. The Royal Academy presents a five-day festival celebrating living British composers: 57 in all. Three composers-in-residence — Richard Rodney Bennett, Nicholas Maw and John Tavener — will oversee performances of their respective works including the London premieres of Bennett's *Third Symphony*, Tavener's *The Last Sleep of the Virgin*, and songs by Maw. Students of the Academy will perform three to four concerts each day (please phone for programme details on 071-935 5461 ext 227). The event is sponsored by IBM.
Royal Academy of Music, Marylebone Road, NW1 (Tickets are free of charge: 071-487 2763), tonight-Fri.

ARDITTI QUARTET. Billed as a Schoenberg cycle, this enterprising series of concerts puts Schoenberg's chamber works in context by performing them alongside music by Berg, Webern and Zemlinsky.
Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800). Tonight, Thurs, 8pm (further concerts, Mar 14, 19).

STING: *The former Police star who became even bigger as a solo act takes a break from saving the rainforests and fighting for the rights of political detainees to do what he does best: jazz-tinged rock. There is a new album out, Ten Summoner's Tales.*
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (071-589 8212). Tonight, Wed, Fri, Sat, 6.45pm.

ROBERT RYMAN. "White painting is my medium", says Ryman, and so it has been since his beginnings in New York in the 1950s. This retrospective of 75 works shows the extraordinary variety of texture, feeling and materials he has been able to introduce into a bit of basic white.
Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2-5.50pm, until Apr 25.

REGIONAL

GLASGOW: Chuck Prophet, the Green on Red guitarist and fine exponent of country rock, goes solo touring a new album *Balinese Dancer*.
King Tuts, 272a St Vincent Street, Glasgow (041-221 5279), 9pm.

CAMBRIDGE: Techno beat masters **The Shamen**, having just released their wackiest single to date, the spaced-out "Re-evolution", perform some timely gigs featuring multi-media visuals.
Corn Exchange, Wheeler Street (0223 357851), 7pm.

LEEDS. Prunella Scales buried to her waist, and then to her neck, in Beckett's *Happy Days*; also nine performances of *Krapp's Last Tape* (please ring box office for details).
Courtyard, West Yorkshire Playhouse, *Quarry Hill Mount* (0532 442111). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, until March 20.

LIVERPOOL. Expressions of Belief, an ambitious travelling exhibition originating in Rotterdam, receives its only British showing in Liverpool. It brings together ceremonial, ritual and personal objects from the various religious backgrounds of Africa, Oceania and Indonesia. Everything in the show has its function, but this can be obscure to outsiders, and the first requirement the show makes is *aesthetic response, after which the* visitor is invited to explore more deeply into the cultural context.
Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street (051-207 0001). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, midday-5pm, until April 18.

SALISBURY. A rare revival of Somerset Maugham's **For Services Rendered**, set in the aftermath of the first world war with army values sharply questioned.
Playhouse, Malthouse Lane (0722 320333). Mon-Wed, 7.30pm; Thurs-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, until March 13.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◩ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **ALFIE.** Adam Faith as *Bill* Naughton's 1963 Jack the Lad who briefly finds human feelings. Play and characters now look antique.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4.30pm. 125mins.

☐ **ANNA KARENINA.** Shared Experience's award-winning adaptation *returns for a second London showing.*
Tricycle, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 180mins.

☐ **THE ARTIFICE:** Roguery, pretence and true love do battle in a comedy by Mrs Centlivre, unjustly neglected female dramatist of the Restoration.
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, *Richmond* (081-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, 2.30pm, Sats, 4pm. 165mins.

☐ **BILLY LIAR.** The Waterhouse/Hall success of 1960 exposed as unbalanced and pretty charmless.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight-Thurs, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Thurs, 2.30pm. 140mins.

■ **CAROUSEL:** A triumphant revival of the Rodgers & Hammerstein fairground musical.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.15pm. 180mins.

◩ **CRAZY FOR YOU.** Thrillingly staged new version of the Gershwin musical *Girl Crazy*. Exceptional entertainment value.
Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071-734 8951). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. 150mins.

◩ **CYRANO DE BERGERAC:** Robert Lindsay looks right as the nasally challenged hero but the production is too bustling to give enough room to the full poignancy of his fate.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. 180mins.

☐ **ENTERTAINING MR SLOANE.** Brisk, pointed revival of Orton's first success, with Janet Dale and Ian Gelder as a sublimely amoral brother-and-sister team.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. 135mins.

■ **HAMLET.** Kenneth Branagh superb in Adrian Noble's first-class production.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight-Thurs, 6.30pm, mat Thurs, 12.30pm. 270mins.

☐ **THE INVISIBLE MAN.** Not so cosy a venue as its birthplace in Stratford East but the show is as jolly as ever. Paul Kaye's magic tricks are amazing.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. 150mins.

■ **KING LEAR:** Solid, respectable performance by Tom Wilkinson in a low-powered staging by Max Stafford-Clark. With Saskia Reeves, Hugh Ross.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. 195mins.

◩ **KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN.** Tremendously glossy production of the Kander & Ebb musical. It coarsens the values of Manuel Puig's novel but Chita Rivera makes a striking vamp. (A new cast takes over from March 29.)
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. 160mins.

◩ **THE LAST YANKEE:** Subtle and touching Arthur Miller premiere. Zoe Wanamaker, Peter Davison lead a quartet of middle-aged Americans troubled by material success.
Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 75mins.

☐ **LOST IN YONKERS.** Terrific performance by Rosemary Harris in a Neil Simon comedy more weighty than usual. Maureen Lipman gives good value as a loopy aunt.
Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 160mins.

◩ **MISERY.** Nonsensical but chilling production of Stephen King's thriller.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (071-839 4488). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 150mins.

☐ **MURDER IS EASY.** But an antiquated Agatha Christie adaptation is hardly worth doing.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. 140mins.

☐ **NO MAN'S LAND.** Paul Eddington and the author in tense, sharply comic Pinter. Riveting stuff.
Comedy, Panton Street, W1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, *Sat, 5pm.* 130mins.

☐ **ON THE PISTE:** John Godber's slight but amusing look at partner trouble in a downmarket ski resort.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5085). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 135mins.

☐ **PLAYLAND.** Athol Fugard's two-hander: white man and black man, loitering outside a fairground, haul up their past and hint at the future. Builds to an eloquent climax.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (071-867 1150). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 90mins.

☐ **ROBIN — PRINCE OF SHERWOOD:** Over-loud, ridiculous show.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, Sun, 3pm. 140mins.

☐ ***SNOW ORCHID:*** *Paola Dionisotti in* London Gay Theatre's British premiere of Joseph Pintauro's 1979 (pre-Aids) drama of a New York family finding a whole lot to worry about.
Gate, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (071-229 0706). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. 120mins.

☐ **TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT:** William Gaunt, John Wells, Richard Kane, Christopher Gee play all 26 parts in Giles Havergal's marvellous adaptation of Graham Greene's novel.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. 140mins. Final week.

☐ **TRELAWNY OF THE "WELLS":** Helen McCrory a fine heroine in goodish though sometimes slow staging by John Caird.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight-Wed, 7.15pm, mat Wed, 2pm. 190mins.

LONG RUNNERS: ◩ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (071-867 1044) ... ☐ **Buddy:** Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) ... ◩ **Cats:** New London (071-405 0072) ... ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner:** Duchess (071-494 5070) ... ☐ **Five Guys Named Moe:** Lyric (071-494 5045) ... ☐ **Hay Fever:** Albery (071-867 1115) ... ☐ **An Ideal Husband:** Globe (071-494 5065) ... ◩ **It Runs in the Family:** Playhouse (071-839 4401) ... ◩ **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat:** Palladium (071-494 5037) ... ◩ **Les Misérables:** Palace (071-434 0909) ... ◩ **Miss Saigon:** Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-494 5400) ... ☐ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (071-836 1443) ... ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) ... ◩ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) ... ☐ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information supplied by Society of West End Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

A BRIGHTER SUMMER DAY: Edward Yang's *masterly epic about restless* Taiwanese youth at the turn of the Sixties. Four hours long, but you don't begrudge a minute.
ICA (071-930 3647).

◆ **CONSENTING ADULTS** (15): Yuppie wife swapping leads to murder. Limp, silly thriller with Kevin Kline, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, Kevin Spacey. Director, Alan J. Pakula.
MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **West End** (0426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

◆ **MALCOLM X** (15): Spike Lee's ambitious epic. Denzel Washington is solid as the black activist, but prickly issues get sidestepped and there is little cinematic fire.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **Camden Plaza** (071-485 2443) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Screen on the Green** (071-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

TOYS (PG): Toy factory falls into evil hands. Over-elaborate, unfunny whimsy from director Barry Levinson.
Odeon Leicester Square (0426 915683).

CURRENT

BAD LIEUTENANT (18): Forceful, uncompromising study of a depraved New York cop hooked on drugs and alcohol from director Abel Ferrara. Astonishing performance by Harvey Keitel.
Odeon Haymarket (0426 915353) **Renoir** (071-837 8402) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772).

◆ ***HONEYMOON IN VEGAS*** (12): Private eye Nicolas Cage tries to save girlfriend from gambler James Caan's clutches. Andrew Bergman's agreeable, old-fashioned screwball comedy.
MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: West End** (0426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

◆ ***LEON THE PIG FARMER*** (15): Jewish lad discovers his embarrassing pedigree. Exuberant British comedy that gets unduly silly. Stars Mark Frankel, Brian Glover; directors Vadim Jean, Gary Sinyor.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) **Everyman** (071-435 1525) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666).

◆ **LORENZO'S OIL** (12): Gruelling real-life tale of parents battling to alleviate their son's terrible illness. With Nick Nolte, Susan Sarandon; director, George Miller.
Empire (071-497 9999) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

OLIVIER OLIVIER (15): Teenager missing for six years returns home; but is it him? Fascinating story, but prosaic treatment by director Agnieszka Holland.
MGM Swiss Centre (071-439 4470).

◆ **UNDER SIEGE** (15): US battleship gets hijacked, but Steven Seagal saves the day. Familiar antics, with juicy villainy from Tommy Lee Jones and Gary Busey. Director, Andrew Davis.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) **Empire** (071-497 9999) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-630 0310) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeon Marble Arch** (0426-914 501) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

SHADOWS AND FOG (15): Woody Allen's technically dazzling but indulgent homage to German Expressionist cinema. With Mia Farrow, John Malkovich, and, very briefly, Madonna.
Lumière (071-836 0691).

A WINTER'S TALE (12). A Paris hairdresser's quest for true love. Eric Rohmer near his best: elegant, clear-eyed, realistic. A film laced with magic. Stars Charlotte Véry.
MGM Swiss Centre (071-439 4470) **Renoir** (071-837 8402).

THEATRE: A new Ayckbourn children's play; Spanish melodrama; and bungled Barder

Sound idea, but the wrong side wor

Mr A's Amazing Maze Plays
Cottesloe

I HAD always thought Alan Ayckbourn to be a wise, humane person. Now I am not so sure. At the centre of his latest play is a man who can claim to be one of the heroes of our time. Mr Accousticus, as he is called, *has found a way of replacing* the great nuisance of noise with the great blessing of silence. Road drills, car alarms, rock music, caterwauling voices: he sucks all such sounds from their sources and files them neatly away in quiet little drawers. And what is Ayckbourn's attitude to this ecological superman? Believe it or not, he is the villain.

True, opera singers and nightingales also lose their voices when he is about. But that trade-off seems acceptable to me. True, too, Ayckbourn's play *is aimed at under-12s.* But that only makes his acoustical solecism more unforgivable. What does he want? To send hordes of screeching kids into the Waterloo Road? He even expects us to mourn when a hyperactive mutt loses its bark. Well, I have lived next to a dog *that yapped without pause from the* moment its mistress left at 9am to the time she returned at 5pm; and if Mr Accousticus had been in the Yellow Pages, my fingers would have been running, not walking his way.

The alleged heroes of this pernicious *fable are Suzy (Judith McSpadden)* and her dog Neville, a bouncing hearth-rug played by Adam Godley. When the latter's larynx goes on the blink, and their friend Mr Passerby (John Branwell) can no longer reel home from the pub singing "Early *One Morning*" in a vile tenor, they decide it is time to act. Sneaking out of Suzy's mum's cottage while she is entertaining Accousticus to dinner, they roam his rambling manor in search of his sound-bite collection; and, sad to say, they liberate it.

Ayckbourn seems to be making a habit of recycling ideas from his adult work in his plays for tots. *Invisible Friends*, for instance, brought onstage captivating yet menacing fantasy-figures very like those that had earlier appeared in *Woman in Mind*. This time, he borrows from *Sisterly Feelings* and *Intimate Exchanges*, plays for which he wrote enough alternate scenes for the actors to be able to take *all sorts of routes to the curtain-call.*

Perched on the sidelines are two narrators who invite the audience to vote on whether Suzy and Neville should go through a trapdoor or into a kitchen, or down a hallway or into a red room; and the events and dialogue vary, depending on our decision.

Well, let me grudgingly admit that the evening is as entertaining as Ayckbourn's writing and direction can make it. Who could resist the last-minute arrival of a ballooning Biggles in the form of Suzy's long lost dad (Richard Long)? My own ears and eyes enjoyed the play in spite of my head and heart, which were wholly with Glyn Grain's Accousticus, dressed as he was in black hat, cravat ar beard, like a gambler or a bank-robber in an old Western. But is too ate for Ayckbourn to write an alternative ending? Girl and dog would ll down a 60-foot well while Accoustus vacuum-cleaned away their dyi howls. Now, there's something everadult in the audience would vote for.

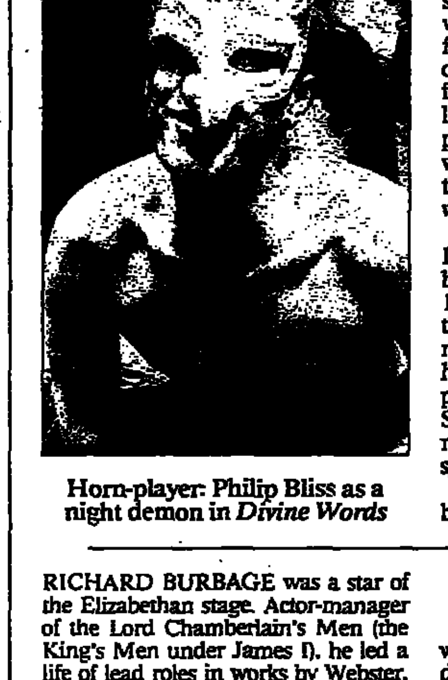
BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MARILYN KINGWILL



Up, up and away: Richard Long plays the father in Alan Ayckbourn's *Mr A's Amazing Maze Pls*

A plot in Spain falls rarely on the plin



Horn-player: Philip Bliss as a night demon in *Divine Words*

Divine Words
BAC, Battersea

BRAVE acting is useful stuff to have around, and priceless in a play like this, set in one of those prurient Spanish villages that Lorca made his own and *few of the rest of us can make anything* of at all. But bold performances, going for broke when it comes to leering, lusting and lamenting, end up rampaging in thin air if characters and plot wander in that awkward area between the real and the magical. Where are *we? Who are they? What is happening?*

Where we are is in a play by Ramon Del Valle-Inclán, born a generation before Lorca, though both died in 1936. He felt, no doubt with reason, that naturalism could not convey the nature of Spain and so evolved the style he called *"Esperpento"*. I quote the programme: "The tragic sense of Spanish life can only be suggested by means of an aesthetic based on systematic distortion."

In brief, a man and his sister are battling for ownership of a hydrocephalic dwarf who will earn them good pesetas as a fairground freak. Meanwhile, the man's wife runs off with a swaggering fortune teller.

Notwithstanding the pesetas, the presenting company, Loose Change, *uses the accents of Ireland to speak* Edwin Williams's presumably literal translation. Some actors slur or sing-song the words in a manner that makes them hard to follow, but otherwise the transposition makes a sort of sense, taking the characters into *the mad peasant world of Synge.*

But it is Synge with a difference. I defy anyone to watch the doleful deaths of *Riders to the Sea* without bursting into laughter, but Valle-Inclán knowingly introduces his Esperpentic grotesqueries. "Aiee, where are you, Joanna, never again will yı speak!" cries a mourner, rushing out the stage rattling her tambourir

Some exchanges, though, e clearly intended to be taken in enest, as when, the commandingly eautiful Adjoa Andoh, playing the scornful heroine, flings herself into th rms of the fortune-teller (Richard acroft), inexplicably named Ninth Mev, and the following dialogue ensues: drink your blood!" "You belong t me!" "Who am I?" "My demon!"

Tessa Schneideman's direcn is chockful of inventive ideas, bging on horned actors to represent a ssing herd of cattle. But events in t first half are hard to penetrate and rtionships baffling. *Michael Healy pls the* cuckold with a nice sense of surd despair, but as he is referredo as Father and dressed as a priest hixact position takes time to suss out.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Not exactly a muse of fire

Burbage and the Bard
Lilian Baylis Studio

RICHARD BURBAGE was a star of the Elizabethan stage. Actor-manager of the Lord Chamberlain's Men (the King's Men under James I), he led a life of lead roles in works by Webster, Jonson, Kyd and Shakespeare, the company playwright. He was so adored that parts were even, paradoxically, written for him to perform *in propria persona*. In *The Returne From Parnassus* Burbage acted Burbage telling others how to act. Now Jonathan Milton plays Burbage.

To give it its due, *Burbage and the Bard* itself toys with the involutions of acting and reality. The story of Shakespeare's career related by Milton and Stan Pretty (the Bard) flows into extracts from the plays and sonnets which, it is claimed, directly related to Shakespeare's loves and loathings. It is a game of art and life. Beginning with the opening of *Richard III*, the illusion is broken by an interruption from the auditorium: it is William Shakespeare complaining about the mishandling of his text.

Unfortunately, as dramatic ideas go, this show is about as bad as you can get: a double-whammy, in fact. Not only is the piece essentially a hotch-potch of done-to-death "Highlights from the Bard"; worse, this pair of actors with a dressing-up basket (Macbeth wears a tartan rug, the *Winter's Tale* Shepherd a sheepskin rug, and Othello what looks like an Indian carpet) imply that their renditions, at best only competent, are representative of performances by England's greatest dramatist and tragedian of legendary virtuosity. Vaulting ambition o'erleaps itself and falls on th'other. Jonathan Milton is no Burbage.

The script's internal debate on theatricality actually turns excruciatingly outwards on the show itself. After a singularly unmagical recitati of Mercutio's Queen Mab speech, amlet's Advice to the Players advocing moderation and naturalism just oks agonisingly ironic. One expects to ear Shakespeare's ghost groaning ithe back row.

At least the production doesnot bother with balding, beaed lookalikes. And biographical ta, though dubious, is rendered a sidgeon more lively than in Arden Edn footnotes. But the comedy is crudehe characterisations demeaning, anditerary analyses banal. A play or theatre-in-education if anything, ot the London stage.

KATE BASSET

ENTERTAINMENTS

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BERLIN GALLERIES: **John Russell Taylor** on current shows in a city renowned for cultural diversity

Trailblazing east and west

Antwerp may be designated this year's cultural capital of Europe. But the most famous artist produced by Antwerp this century, **Henry van de Velde**, is being celebrated with a major retrospective not on home ground, but in Berlin. Perhaps that is not so surprising. The show at the Bauhaus-Archiv is subtitled "A European Artist in His Time", and is at pains to point out the variety and geographical extent of van de Velde's work.

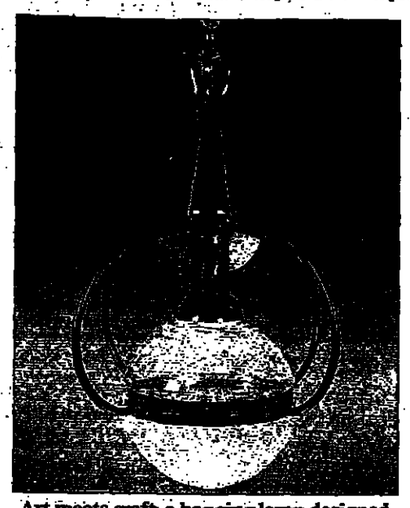
He lived and worked mainly in Belgium until 1900, when he was 37, but even at that stage his style as a painter, which is how he began, was formed primarily by a period of study in Paris, and by direct contact with the apostles of Pointillism and Cloisonnism. The result was work so exquisite that it is sad he seldom found time to paint after he had discovered his true metier. This discovery came through his encounter with the English Arts and Crafts Movement, which made him into a passionate proponent of honest workmanship and the interfusion of fine and applied arts.

The first important results of all this were seen in his innovative typographical and book work in Belgium, and the advertisements he did for the Tropon factory, so abstracted one could certainly not guess the company made cereals. Then in 1900 van de Velde moved to Berlin, for two years crucial to his development. There he began to be known for his architectural work, at first in uniquely integrated interiors, then in complete buildings like the Hohenhof, where his friend Karl Ernst Osthaus let him design all the furniture and fittings as well.

A particularly exciting part of the Bauhaus-Archiv show is the reconstruction of van de Velde's salon for Haby, the Berlin court hairdresser (1901), long known only from photographs. Amazingly it proves to have survived the second world war in the East and remained in use till the Sixties, when it was dismantled. But fortunately an enthusiast managed to spirit away the chairs, basins and other fittings, and keep them hidden from the communist authorities until reunification.

The particular relevance of the Bauhaus-Archiv as a venue derives from van de Velde's years in Weimar, 1902-1917, where he founded the School of Applied Arts that was eventually to become the original Bauhaus. The first world war finally compelled van de Velde to move to Switzerland, but soon he was able to go home to the Low Countries and undertake one of his most important architectural projects: the Kröller-Müller Museum at Otterlo, which occupied him on and off until 1937. In 1926 he became professor of architectural history at the University of Ghent, and remained active as an architect, going to the United States for the first time when he was 76 as designer of the Belgium pavilion at the New York World's Fair.

Even after his official retirement at the age of 84, van de Velde remained indefatigible, writing his memoirs and spreading his teachings about rationality in design. It is amazing to see how much practical work went with all the theorising: not only some key buildings of the 20th century, but also everything down to the humblest tableware or the interior design of Belgian railway coaches (also reconstituted here) was grist to his mill. At least in May the show will go to Ghent, near enough Antwerp to remind everyone that if Antwerp is now a city of European standing, van de Velde was an important element in its ascension.



Art meets craft: a hanging lamp designed in or around 1906 by Henry van de Velde

The other notable new Berlin exhibition is **China Avantgarde** at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt. It also will travel, arriving in Oxford in August, no doubt in a different form, since several of the artists make site-specific installations.

The avant-garde in question is that which began to find public expression shortly before the happenings of Tiananmen Square. That makes it difficult to separate humane sympathies from aesthetic judgment. However, at least two of the installers — Gu Dexin, who has made an extraordinary river of red-paint encrusted fabric along the floor, and Huang Yongping, who has fitted the stark concrete columns of the central space with fungus-like encrustations — produce images which are strikingly ambiguous.

About half the artists shown remain faithful to easel painting. There are signs, similar to those in recent Russian art, that younger painters have only just discovered Western Pop Art, so for Westerners there is a *déjà vu* quality about the work of such as Wang Guangyi or Yu Youhan.

But the show also offers painters of powerful individuality. Fang Lijun's paintings seem to be unflattering self-portraits: moon-faced men infinitely replicated in mysterious or sinister situations. Ding Yi makes intricate modular abstractions which relate at once to the western abstraction of de Stijl and to oriental calligraphy. How representative are these 16 artists of China today? That is hard for an outsider to guess, but the variety and vitality is impressive.

- *Henry van de Velde is at the Bauhaus-Archiv, Klingelhöferstrasse 14 (30-2045020), Wed-Mon 10am-5pm, until April 18.*
- *China Avantgarde is at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, John-Foster-Dulles-Allee 10 (30-397870), Tues-Sun 10am-8pm, until May 2.*



Influenced by Western Pop Art: a work by Wang Guangyi from a show of Chinese avant-garde art

CRITIC'S CHOICE: BERLIN GALLERIES

- **DIE ETRUSKE UND EUROPA:** This mammoth show arrives in Berlin after winning golden opinions in Paris. It tries to elucidate the mysteries of the Etruscans, their language and their culture, but fortunately does not succeed in dispelling all the magic which has made them such a potent force in the subsequent cultural history of Italy and Europe as a whole.
  Altes Museum, Museuminsel, Bodestrasse 1-3 (30-203550) Tues-Sun 10-7, until May 31
- **DIE UFA 1917-1945:** The glittering career of the German picture-empire, the most important film production company between the wars, is chronicled with an amazing wealth of original designs, reconstructed costumes, film stills, programmes, extracts on video, and tableaux giving a vivid impression of how it was all done. Presided over, splendidly, by the biggest statue of Marlene Dietrich ever made, perched on her barrel in *The Blue Angel*.
  Deutsches Historisches Museum. Unter den Linden 2 (30-215020) Thurs-Tues 10-6, extended to mid-March
- **LA COURSE AU MODERNE:** When the Werkbund-Archiv puts its mind to it, it can gather together as good a display of popular culture as any institution in the world. It is not entirely clear what this one is supposed to prove, beyond the obvious point that modern fine art and modern publicity were in alliance and influencing each other long before Pop Art made the union official. But some of the posters are really stunning, and a German animated cartoon of the early Thirties advertising milk with marching milk-bottles is hilarious.
  Werkbund-Archiv, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Stresemannstrasse 110 (30-254860) Tues-Sun 10-8, until April 4
- **ADOLF FLEISCHMANN:** A centenary celebration of a relatively little known abstractionist. Crucial phases of his development took place in Nazi-inspired exile, but he came into his own in the Fifties and Sixties, when he hit on his own personal form, painting in exquisitely graded lines of colour that look oddly like the rows of stitches on a Bauhaus rug. An isolated figure, but original and distinctive enough to be worth a new look.
  Stoltz Berlin, Goethestrasse 81 (30-3137899) Tues-Fri 2-6, Sat 11-2, until March 20

ROCK: **David Sinclair** is neither shaken nor stirred by Deacon Blue's efforts at the Grand in Clapham

Void where the heart should be

As a taster for their forthcoming British tour, Deacon Blue returned to a smaller venue than those they have been accustomed to playing in recent years. It was a confident and busy performance, with an emphasis on songs from the group's new album *Whatever You Say... Say Nothing*, released last Monday. But while the crowded atmosphere and close proximity of the band produced an added frisson of excitement, the intimate setting also highlighted the emotional vacuum which lurks at the heart of their music.

It began with the pump-action blast of "Your Town", the leather-coated singer Ricky Ross looming like a vengeful spirit from a dense swirl of smoke, while the band were all but buried in a wash of dark coloured lights. Ross's voice, treated with an electronic effect, had a dark, metallic edge as he wheeled about in front of a multi-tentacled microphone stand that looked more like an alien form of plant life than a piece of musical equipment.

From this immediate dramatic high point, the tension gradually dissipated, along with the smoke. The lighting now revealed a two-tier stage, partitioned by sheets of corrugated iron. Ross and the guitarists patrolled the front ground floor area, while elevated in the background were keyboards, drums and backing vocalist Lorraine McIntosh, a sparring partner who clearly knows her place.

There was much eye-catching stage business throughout the show, what Ross likes to call their "little bits of cabaret". Roadies in overalls and miners' helmets "washed down" bits of the set between numbers, wheeled on the decorated skeleton of a piano and held a dressing-room mirror for McIntosh to gaze meaningfully at herself while applying her make-up during "Will We Be Lovers". In "The Day That Jackie Jumped The Jail", McIntosh busied herself hanging out some washing while Ross delivered his narrative from a prison bed below.

Such theatrical touches worked well enough, and collectively the band brought a safe pair of hands to the task of juggling new songs with old favourites like "Your Swaying Arms" and "Wages Day". But although neatly executed, there was no warmth or passion to the performance. The instrumentalists were personality-free workhorses, while Ross fondling his hair and wiggling about with self-delight, offered a portrait of the artist as a man deeply in love with himself.

The band could take just satisfaction in the calls which brought them back for encores of "Twist And Shout" and "All Over The World", but the besetting lack of resonance in their music remained.



Something missing: Deacon Blue, short on emotion

CONCERT: BRITTEN FESTIVAL

Slava takes his bow

Britten, Shostakovich, Rostropovich: a triumvirate that bestrides 20th century music. **Mstislav Rostropovich**'s Barbican recital on Thursday might have been a tribute to the English composer. But he did not forget his compatriot Shostakovich, who as well as influencing him in his own right, was responsible for introducing Rostropovich to Britten.

The recital, with **Ian Brown** as accompanist, set up some fascinating contrasts. Britten was an introverted individual whose emotional life is seen at its richest in his music. Shostakovich was obliged to express himself obliquely; his music is shot through with irony and ambivalence. Rostropovich is the most open-hearted of performers, a born communicator, yet he seems instinctly attuned to the languages of Britain and Shostakovich.

In the former's Cello Sonata in C, he caught to perfection the ambiguity of mood that lies below the surface: the playful yet ominous pizzicato of the Scherzo, the sinister scrapings of the harmonics at the end of the Marcia, and the echoes of Shostakovich in the same movement. In Britten's unaccompanied Third Suite, too, there was a sense of total absorption in the private world of the composer.

Rostropovich's eagerness to get on with the music-making served to sharpen the contrasts in Shostakovich's Sonata in D Minor. The juxtaposition of the elegiac close of the Largo with the perky opening of the Allegretto was deftly done. The rip-roaring vigour of Rostropovich's and Brown's playing here drew a spontaneous burst of applause from an appreciative audience.

Debussy's Cello Sonata may seem the odd man. In fact, the suggestive fragmentary utterances of this late work made it an apt choice. The rare moments of lyricism — as when the fragments cohere, in the Serenade, into a glorious melody soaring high up the fingerboard — are all the more moving and were given their full due by Rostropovich.

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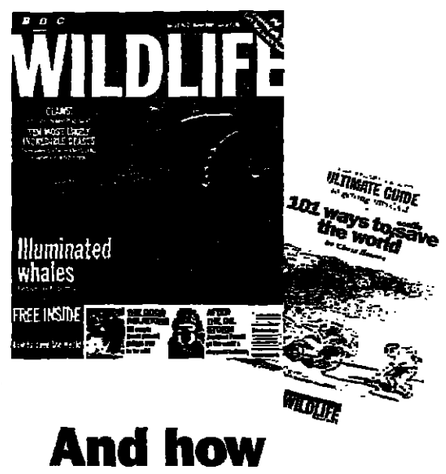
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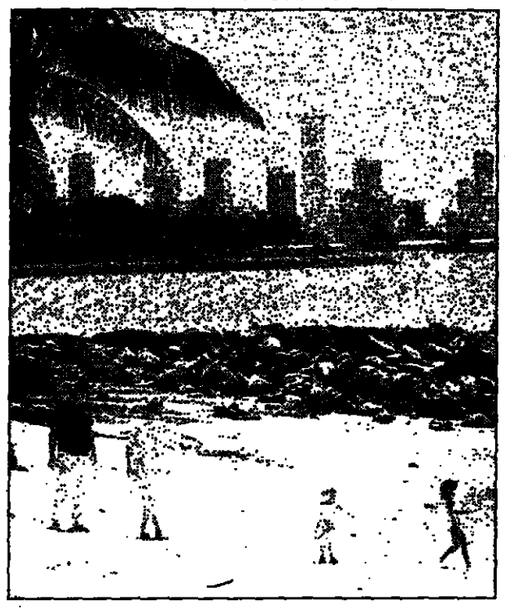
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EDUCATION

English with standards

David Pascall, National Curriculum Council chairman, responds to Brian Cox's attack on the council's philosophy

In last Monday's paper, Professor Brian Cox summarised the arguments he developed in the Channel 4 series *Opinions*. He stated that right-wing dogmas are damaging the teaching and learning of English in our classrooms. His thesis was that the pendulum has swung too far in favour of correct grammar and spelling at the expense of giving pleasure to pupils. Let me correct the misunderstandings which underlie many of his arguments.

I can understand the strong feelings which this subject arouses. English is the most important of the National Curriculum subjects. Our children must develop the abilities to speak, listen, read and write. These are the foundations of all future learning.

The National Curriculum Council is revising the English curriculum and we shall shortly be submitting our proposals to the Secretary of State. In advising John Patten last year that such revisions were necessary, we acknowledged that the English curriculum, which Brian Cox did so much to develop, does have significant strengths. It seeks to foster our children's ability to use language purposefully and creatively. It encourages the powers of imagination. It promotes spiritual, moral and cultural understanding. We support these aims wholeheartedly.

However, my council had to assess whether the statutory framework could be improved to give greater certainty that standards will be raised. Our conclusion was that it could.

The proposals which we are developing therefore build upon the successes of the current curriculum but define more explicitly and rigorously the knowledge and skills involved in speaking, listening, reading and writing.

We wish children to become confident users of standard English. We recognise that this is not the only basis for effective communication but all children as part of their social and professional development are entitled to an education which enables them to speak accurately, fluently and confidently. None of this undermines the integrity of dialects, a rich inheritance of our national life.

ZULEIKA HENRY



Dramatic improvements: children in the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Antigone* project

Professor Cox's own report stated that all pupils had "an entitlement to learn ... the functions and forms of standard English". He failed, however, to define what this means. We are remedying this omission in order to give every child the opportunity to speak and write in the vocabulary and grammar of standard English.

We are not talking about the subtle refinements of linguistic theory but about the basic elements of our language. Does anyone really dispute that we need to raise the standards of spoken English in this country?

Of course this needs to be handled sensitively and flexibly, particularly for young children. We will not be requiring teachers to correct the speech of six-year-olds in the playground or to undermine their self-confidence in seeking to express themselves. But if we can improve standards in English lessons, why not in geography lessons, and in everyday use?

We are all concerned about reading standards. Our proposals define a balanced approach to the skills required in initial reading including the important role of phonics. We are also proposing a framework within which children are introduced to the pleasures of wide reading so that they develop their intellectual and emotional responses. As their reading develops, we wish to encourage the reading of more demanding texts and to introduce pupils to our rich literary heritage, as well as those of other cultures.

We have no wish to be unnecessarily prescriptive. Our approach is not a simplistic booklist but an imaginative use of appropriate criteria and categories which encourages these objectives. The emphasis is on reading and understanding rather than on detailed analysis. We see reading not as a treadmill but as an imaginative engagement with novels, poems and plays.

We are also defining the basic skills of writing to ensure that as children express in words their feelings and thoughts, they are able to use the richness of vocabulary, grammar, spelling and punctuation which characterises English.

This is not an ideological or political agenda. The National Curriculum Council is an independent and balanced council. We have sought a wide range of professional advice to enable us to meet our remit as objectively as possible.

On a personal level, may I also assure Brian Cox that I do not have strong links with the right-wing Centre for Policy Studies. Indeed, I have never had any connection with the CPS and I do not view these issues in terms of progressive versus traditional approaches. As a parent of young children, I am concerned only with the quality of their education.

Teachers have introduced stimulating ways of teaching English and there is nothing in our approach which undermines the objectives of raising expectations, interest and creativity.

The Secretary of State will be considering our recommendations and publishing his own conclusions in the coming weeks. There will then follow a three-month period of statutory consultation. I hope the public debate will not be polarised in terms of creativity and imagination versus essential skills; real books versus phonics; literary heritage versus modern multi-cultural texts; spoken standard English versus the integrity of dialect. All have a part to play in our children's education. Let us look calmly and rationally at what is proposed.

Mergers, morality and the new man

The choice of chairman for the latest quango has surprised some observers

Few educational appointments attracted as much advance speculation as the chairmanship of the government's newly merged curriculum and testing quango.

Almost every leading Conservative educationist (and even a few government critics) had been rumoured into the job. But no one suggested Sir Ron Dearing, the self-effacing chairman of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, who was the eventual choice.

The appointment seemed to stun the government's many opponents in education into silence. The only whiff of controversy came from fact that the government did not plump for David Pascall [see article, left], reappointed last summer as chairman of the National Curriculum Council (NCC).

Mr Pascall confessed that he was "disappointed" not to be given the opportunity to complete the work he had started. Technology is still to be revised, guidelines on spiritual and moral development are on the way and there is important business unfinished in primary education.

In choosing Sir Ron, however, John Patten, the education secretary, has gone for a proven administrator who starts with a clean slate. Relations between the NCC and the School Examinations and Assessment Council are such that an insider from either body would have faced difficulties in marrying the two cultures. Sir Ron has had recent experience of just such an operation, having merged the polytechnics' and universities' funding councils into a single body without causing waves.

The bigger question is his suitability for a political hotseat. None of Sir Ron's succession of higher education appointments has presented such a delicate task, and his famed listening skills and diplomatic qualities are sure to be severely tested.

"I am not political and have never been aligned to any party, but I have worked with ministers from Keith Joseph to Tony Benn without difficulty," Sir Ron says, adding that the Northern Development company, which he also chairs, is a highly political forum of a different kind.



Sir Ron Dearing: self-effacing

Like Mr Pascall, Sir Ron will pay particular attention to the moral values imparted through the curriculum: "I am conscious that religious education has much less significance for many young people now. A society which has lost a lot of its values is in some danger because it is difficult for people without reference points to make sense of their lives."

His other immediate preoccupation will be with those for whom school has always had little to offer. "The kind of thing that switches me on is the wish to help develop a curriculum that is as relevant and rewarding to children who are not academic as to those who are; to build up the standing of the vocational stream to have parity with the academic stream."

It is a concern one might link to his own background: he left school at 16 to work as a clerk in a labour exchange in Hull. But Sir Ron traces his attitude to seven years as chairman of the Post Office, where he learnt to respect the achievements of many ordinary postmen and women who excelled in other fields. He was an equally enthusiastic champion of the polytechnics long before they achieved university status, apparently preferring their applied bias to the intellectual strengths of the universities.

Those who have worked with him testify that, as well as being a prodigious worker, he is no slouch intellectually. In addition to his degree as a mature student at Hull University, his credentials include a Sloan fellowship at the London Business School and a spell at the Harvard Business School.

A preference for persuasion over confrontation, which made him a popular Post Office chairman, has carried over into the educational phase of his career.

That began with the Council for National Academic Awards, which he chaired after leaving the Post Office in 1987. Those involved with the now defunct council remember the skill with which he cut the bureaucracy while defending the organisation from government critics.

Sir Ron's record leaves no reason to doubt that he will carry out his promise to listen to teachers when he assumes his new responsibilities, even though he will be only a part-time chairman. If he can square their concerns with the demands of his political masters, he will have carried off the coup of a distinguished career.

JOHN O'LEARY

Taking responsibility

Teachers may like it when disruptive pupils are absent but they should now make delinquency their concern

Single solutions to crime are idle since criminality is so complex. To put sole blame on the government, the parents and the schools is naive. Yet we have to check out all the obvious factors which may contribute, and try to exert influence upon them.

I am interested in the role of schools in averting youthful crime, but teachers have little to say about delinquency. There is now a flurry of interest in truancy, but government ministers are mainly responsible for this, because truancy is so obviously linked with delinquency and because truancy figures now have to be declared.

Teachers like it when disruptive pupils are absent from their classes. Most feel that events outside school are not their concern. They have more than enough to do trying to provide the learning which is patently their business, and which presents its own difficulties. And they have their own well-formed theories about whose fault delinquency is. Their roll-call of guilty parties has filled the media these past weeks, since the Bulger killing; and it is headed by "parents" and "the violent society".

Inside and outside school are two worlds still, and nowhere is the divide shown more clearly than in teacher attitudes to delinquency. Take the response to concerns arising from the Bulger case: how much emphasis has there been from schools themselves, on their role in identifying vulnerable juveniles in their midst, and in exerting influence to control and divert their delinquent tendencies?

Why has the role of the school been played down by teachers themselves? Firstly, the impact of the emphasis on parents and society as causing crime is understandable because of the sheer dimensions of these factors as they affect child behaviour, particularly in a period of recession and high unemployment. Changes in family structure leading to the absence of suitable, long-term role models are clearly important forces impinging on children.

Then, those in education are frightened of having too much responsibility for delinquency being placed on them. It is too big a burden, morally, professionally and economically, in a period when schools are very short of resources for their more obvious tasks. Who, they ask justifiably, will pay for the staffing needs of the fresh burden?

Truancy control and exclusion are traditionally seen in education circles as the most important aspects of the school's relationship with delinquency, and government moves make it appear that these are already being dealt with. Of course there is a very large overlap between truanting or excluded children and those who are in trouble with the law. But the problem of juvenile crime, especially in the sense of preventable delinquency, goes beyond these phenomena.



The face of delinquency: teachers blame the parents and society

Perhaps the biggest impediment to teacher involvement in delinquency is the notion that confidentiality is God, and that to breach it is itself a crime; that to know that a child is delinquent is automatically to label him or her, with pernicious results. As a consequence, information about children's involvement in crime is usually jealously guarded by senior teachers, ultimately to the detriment of many of the children themselves.

In my view, delinquent children ought to be treated as those with special educational needs. It is often a fine line between delinquents' needs and those of children who are in receipt of statements of special educational needs because of emotional and behavioural disturbance.

Attempts to introduce the statementing of delinquent pupils are thwarted because of the fear that teachers will stigmatise them. Yet procedures could be devised to guard against this, and we should beware of maligning teachers.

If delinquent children are statemented in this way, resources, coming from both the Department of Education and the Home Office, could be deployed to offer help with basic literacy for those in need of it; or general curricular help for the more able, together with social skills training and tutorial support. Delinquents often have extremely low self-esteem, and such teaching and support could help reduce this. Courts or schools could recommend the statement of needs, while decisions about who should be designated would have to err on the side of generosity, since so many would be likely to benefit.

We need a major rethink about the role of the school as a preventer of delinquency. Teachers will have to learn about this area, and we must consider the extent to which school staffs can provide alternative role models for behaviour.

Over the past decades, children's perception of adults has changed in fundamental ways. For example, 40 years ago, the number of adults to whom a child was exposed was relatively small. Today, via the TV and cinema screen, it is enormous. Some of us behave appallingly, lewdly and violently. Our failures as adults have entered the minds of the young in their homes. All this is compounded by the lack of firm yet humane parenting by some of the adults who have the care of our children.

Within the school, the child sees adults daily. Can anything be done so that the teacher compensates for the role-model disaster area of so many of our homes? Teachers may well think this is too much to ask of them. But perhaps we have to.

JEAN LAWRENCE

The author is a tutor in the Educational Development and Support Service at London Guildhall University

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23.10	Allens	104	- 2	...	6.4	10.8
171.60	Amec	85	+ 1	10.2	...	7.8
3.14	Anglia Sec	9½	- ½	...	...	...
42.30	Ashtead◇	170 †	+ 7	4.1	3.1	22.3
356.80	Bovis◇	379	- 3	9.0	5.1	11.8
1,661.60	BPB Ind	550	+ 7	...	4.5	9.9
39.20	Bregenzer Kw	76	- 1	...	3.1	25.5
3.24	Bailey (Ben) Cls	21	...	...	0.5	3.4
18.20	Barrett	97	- 1	...	1.2	19
251.00	Barratt Devs	189	+ 3	...	2.0	21.1
174.20	Bellway	258	-22	...	1.5	4.3
4.11	Bellwinch	25	- 1	...	...	...
27.30	Bett.ay Gp	154	+ 7	...	2.3	24.4
9.75	Bett Bros	45	...	...	...	1.8
1,166.90	Blue Circle	454	+10	11.2	4.4	22.9
72.20	Bmt (Henry)	270	+ 5	...	2.7	14.7
20.70	Brewster PLC	96	+ 2	4.6	6.5	16.2
17.60	Br Dredging	102	+ 2	7.4	9.9	13.0
13.80	Bsc Portugal	58	...	5.3	...	...
238.90	Bryan	129	+ 3	4.8	5.0	27.6
21.10	CALA	60	...	2.3	5.1	...
611.00	CRH	251	- 1	...	4.1	...
7.98	Chartered Rby	31	- 2	...	...	...
64.50	Crouch	28	+ 1	4.7	...	...
72.00	Countryside	120	...	4.1	4.6	31.7
45.10	Cwc Nat1902	39 *	+ 6	0.0	...	∞
0.56	Cumbra	40	...	...	...	...
1.18	Dunton◇	2½	- ½	...	...	...
12.20	Edmund Nuttall	23	- ½	1.8	...	9.4
35.50	Ecclis	186	+ 1	...	4.9	14.8
15.10	Erith	32	...	2.0	...	...
29.60	Eve Groupe	315	+15	...	4.1	11.4
148.40	Everard Bardon	41	+ 1	5.6	...	22.1
6.85	Explosives	45½	...	...	...	...
7.00	Freeman Gps	102	...	...	...	...
35.50	GA Group	69	- 6	4.3	...	15.9
1.50	Gibbs & Dandy	75	...	...	...	...
73.00	Gleeson (M)	230	+20	12.7	2.3	10.8
168.50	Hawtn-Smith	92	+ 2	3.1	4.6	19.2
4.05	Hewetsons	47 †	- 2½	2.6	...	69.8
142.70	Heywd Wlm	186	...	12.5	9.5	10.0
27.30	Higgs & Hill	82	+ 2	9.0	...	9.5
12.80	How Gp	31	...	3.5	...	10.7
4.52	Howard Mchgs	18	...	0.5	2.7	...
140.20	Hunnk Johnsn	58	+ 2	8.0	...	...
4.48	Ibstk	18	...	0.5	...	...
93.00	Ideal (J)	198	...	9.0	6.1	10.1
18.30	Lilley	7½	...	2.0	...	2.4
9.72	Lk Concordia◇	19½	-1½	4.5	4.5	22.7
16.20	Lovell (T)	295	+ 3	7.0	3.2	20.5
109.50	Marley	180	+ 4	4.2	5.1	27.7
398.50	Marshalls	195	- 2	4.9	5.2	11.5
51.00	Maunders (J)	138 †	+12½	6.5	6.3	∞
78.00	McAlpine (A)	353	+ 2	9.5	6.1	...
23.20	McGarry & S	33	...	...	...	...

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

634.00	Allied Colloids	338	- 7	3.9	2.2	18.9
374.40	Amersham	720	- 7	12.5	2.3	26.7
14.90	Anglo Utd	9½	- ½	0.8	...	...
5,395.70	BASF DM	9450	-287½	...	...	...
249.00	BTP	266	+ 5	8.8	4.4	19.5
7,431.00	Bayer DM50	6113	-208½	...	3.9	...
64.20	Biagden	138	...	4.9	9.8	7.9
111.40	Brent Chems	165	+14	7.4	6.2	∞
171.40	Br Bio-Tech	460	+ 5	...	2.5	15.0
13.20	Caird Gp	20	- ½	2.5	15.0	5.8
60.50	Canning (W)	143	+ 3	7.3	6.8	11.5
2,385.90	Courtaulds	595	+20	13.0	2.9	16.2
335.60	Croda	257	+ 4	7.5	3.9	19.5
154.50	Ellis & Everard	188	+ 1	7.0	5.0	17.1
5.83	Euro Colour	19½	+ 4	0.6	4.4	...
100.30	Evode	138	...	3.5	3.5	∞
83.80	Halstead (J)	282	+ 1	...	2.8	15.1
384.30	Hickson	222	...	7.8	4.7	14.1
6,738.20	Hoechst	1,105½	-600	...	7.5	...
8,889.30	ICI	1245	+37	...	6.1	33.0
1,304.90	Laporte	680	+ 4	18.9	3.7	18.3
128.50	Leigh	203	- 6	7.8	5.1	16.6
12.70	MTM	14	- ½	1.8	...	2.8
3,337.70	Norsk Hydro	1635	+40½	...	1.8	...
101.30	Paterson Zoch	415	...	11.4	3.7	17.9
85.80	-do- 'A'	373	...	11.4	4.1	16.1
134.70	Ryan	260	+ ½	6.0	3.0	17.7
30.60	Scapa	200 †	+ 2½	3.6	2.4	∞
16.40	Sandiffe Speak	9½	- 2½	...	...	...
106.20	Wardle Storeys	430	+ 1	16.0	5.0	17.3
31.60	Westminster E	445	+ 2	16.3	4.9	19.6
174.30	Yorks Chem	384 †	+16	...	2.7	20.6
250.50	Yule Catto	288	...	5.4	2.4	17.9

DRAPERY, STORES

24.60	Alexon	88	+ 6	...	4.7	4.6
63.90	Amber Day	88	+ 5	5.1	7.5	15.1
859.60	Argos Plc	500	+16	6.4	2.9	25.1
185.50	Ashley (Laura)	79	- 3	0.1	0.2	...
253.80	Asprey◇	293	...	...	2.2	23.0
5.12	Austin Reed	198	...	6.0	...	56.8
68.50	Bentalls 'D' 'A'	148	+ 3	5.7	3.2	15.1
50.30	Bentalls	120	+ 6	3.8	4.3	67.7
267.70	Betterware	283	+25	...	0.6	36.2
7.95	Blacks Leis	25	...	3.3	...	5.2
327.60	Body Shop	175	+22	1.6	1.2	20.2
68.80	Brown & Jackson	15½	+ ½	...	...	...
272.30	Brown (N)	373	+16	6.0	2.1	23.1
1,037.20	Burton	74½	- 1	...	3.6	...
23.60	Cannon	142	...	...	2.3	18.9
32.00	Church	205	...	12.5	6.5	25.1
21.10	Clinton Cards	155	+21	3.7	3.2	...
1,309.80	Coats Viyella	227	+ 1	7.0	4.1	26.0
20.10	Colorvision◇	59	...	...	...	16.7
108.30	Courts Furnish	444	+21	5.0	1.5	22.3
2.54	Crown Eyes◇	140	+10	...	5.7	...
1,701.40	Dsty Farm Ind	905	+ 2	...	...	16.7
68.90	Dewhirst (J)	56½	+ ½	0.7	1.7	18.7
884.00	Dixons Grp	225	+ 6	8.0	3.6	26.5
610.40	Dunhill	399	+16	7.7	2.9	12.4
7.45	ERA Gp	13	- 1	...	...	6.0
4.80	Elys (Wimbldn)	400	-85	16.0	5.3	8.9
13.00	Essex Pass	114	+ 5	...	3.5	19.1
143.00	Etam	219	+ 7	6.0	4.0	19.6
637.30	Fine Art Dev	550	+ 4	11.0	2.7	21.1
2.39	Fired Earth Tiles	42	...	4.0	...	30.7
15.30	Forminster	498	...	12.5	3.4	10.4
7.38	French Conn◇	46½	+ 7½	...	...	...
4.57	Goldcrest◇	78	+ 2	...	6.8	12.8
23.50	Gent SR	65	+13	2.0	4.2	16.9
8.11	Goldsmiths Gp	37	- 1	1.8	...	...
141.50	GUS	2600	+50	40.0	2.1	20.7
4,083.80	-do- 'A'	1690	+47	40.0	3.2	15.9
4.19	Hampden Grp◇	35	...	...	7.6	5.0
165.70	Harrisons	161	-39	4.6	4.0	9.8
23.10	Helene Pic	24	- ½	2.0	11.2	10.5
1.27	Heritage◇	68	...	...	...	...
47.40	Honeybourne	58 †	+ 1	...	2.6	7.8
7.80	Hse of Lerose	137	...	10.3	10.0	20.8
5.99	Jacques Vert	63	- 1	2.0	...	...
542.00	Kingfisher	542	- 2	...	3.4	16.3
24.00	Leslie Wise Gp	71 †	+ 6	4.7	6.6	...
109.20	Liberty	658	+ 2	14.3	5.9	12.5
334.80	Lloyds Chem	284	+18	5.5	2.6	11.1
154.10	MFI	154	+ 8	...	3.2	17.0
9,991.00	Marks Spencer	341	+ 7½	23.8	3.9	15.7
258.50	Menzies (John)	465	- 3	10.0	2.9	15.5
23.70	Moss Bros	142	+ 6	5.0	4.7	27.4
588.30	Next	154	+11	0.7	0.6	30.6
4.80	Oliver (G)	19	...	1.7	...	...
113.30	Ortlance Int	220	-10	...	5.5	14.3
34.80	Pentos	52	+ 4	1.5	3.9	∞
108.10	Qs Hldgs	295	+ 7	4.7	2.3	21.3
23.50	Rainers Group	18	...	2.4	17.8	...
15.80	Rhino Grp◇	31½	+ 1	...	...	...
166.10	Sherwood Gp	160	+ 3	...	1.9	15.4
1,556.70	Sears	107½	+ 5½	...	4.5	28.4
1,166.50	Smith WH 'A'	429	+ 6	11.4	4.2	13.1
1.34	Specialeyes◇	8	...	...	...	...
367.40	Storehouse	167	+ 5	5.0	3.6	...
102.00	T & S Stores	161	-11	5.5	4.6	10.5
53.00	The Sock	107	+ 2	3.5	4.6	...
105.20	Time Products	200	+12	7.5	5.0	19.6
6.98	Usher (Frankie◇	103 †	+10½	...	6.7	7.9
23.10	Vivat	43	+12	1.0	3.3	∞
100.30	Wickes	98	+10	...	...	43.9
4.72	Wld of Leathers◇	38	...	...	...	68.2
49.10	Wrevskie	169	+ 1	...	3.1	17.8
4.24	Zim-Holmes◇	2½	...	...	...	2.7

ELECTRICALS

19.10	AB Elect	67	+ 1	...	...	...
249.60	ACT Group	197	+ 9	4.5	3.6	17.4
34.40	Acal◇	228	...	...	3.3	19.9
83.70	Acorn Comps	128	- 5	...	...	...
68.90	Admiral	653	- 1	5.4	1.6	∞
55.60	Alba	130	...	4.7	5.3	15.6
7.71	Alphameric	30	...	...	...	...
156.90	Amstrad	77 †	- ½	0.4	...	...
22.40	App Fnlce◇	108	-13	...	...	...
4.21	Arlen	14	...	...	...	...
133.90	Astec	47◇	- 1	...	...	...
28.30	Beales Hunter	268	- 2	9.2	4.6	14.1
8.80	Bestmst & Pnnr◇	8	- ½	...	...	...
252.30	BICC	374	-49	...	7.1	28.8
130.20	Blick	525 †	+ 1	9.2	2.3	20.4
640.20	Borland◇	1920	+150	...	...	...
487.40	Bowmoor	288	+ 2	...	2.8	19.7
28,772.40	BT	433	+15	19.4	4.4	16.1
2.14	Baigin (AF) 'A'	9½	...	...	0.1	1.6	...
49.40	Burnfield	146	+18	3.7	5.5	...
7,944.50	Cable Wireless	723	-20	13.2	2.4	22.3
72.80	Chloride	175	- ½	...	...	...
12.10	Clarke T	82	...	6.5	10.9	11.8
43.90	CML Microe	211	+ 3	...	2.4	16.5
12.40	Comptr People	30	...	5.4	...	11.5
280.20	Cray Elect	1395	+ 3½	...	0.5	11.3
38.90	Crowley	111	- 3	...	2.6	22.1
661.70	Delta	448	+17	14.0	4.2	17.7
12.90	Dennaus Ele	297	...	...	...	2.7	∞
158.20	Domino	618	+18	7.2	1.6	21.1
77.40	Dowding Mills	93½	- 3½	2.5	6.2	17.6
62.60	Druck◇	978	+13	...	1.3	23.8
825.60	Electrocomps	395	+ 5½	7.0	2.4	21.4
42.90	El Data Prc	49½ †	-3½	...	2.1	7.4	12.5
17.30	Electron House	67	...	2.3	4.7	20.4
20.70	Exmos	19½	+ 1	1.0	...	...
233.00	Eurotherm	532	+ 5	8.0	2.0	24.2
56.10	FKI	127	+ 4	2.3	2.4	24.0
486.30	Farnell Elect	366	+ 8	5.8	2.1	19.9
2.06	Feedback◇	25	...	...	...	...
140.40	Ferranti	15	+ 1½	...	...	...
21.80	First Tech	165	+ 6	...	...	...
11.10	Forward Tech	153	+ 4	...	2.2	18.4
5.05	Forward Tmn	17½	...	...	...	...
8,503.10	GEC	312½	+18	9.6	4.1	16.5
104.40	Gnasby	165	- 2	10.9	8.8	14.3
1.46	Hillsdown◇	39	...	...	1.9	15.7
426.40	Hmpsns Gp	486	+ 3	24	0.7	...
4.99	INSTEM◇	111	+ 6	...	3.8	∞
68.20	Jones Stroud	358	+ 3	8.6	3.0	15.6

Capitalisation, week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 1. Dealings end March 12. §Contango day March 15. Settlement day March 22. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ELECTRICITY

1,014.20	East Midlands	465	+29	17.1	4.9	8.9
1,285.20	Eastern Elec	476	+24	16.7	4.7	11.8
1,250.00	Hydro-Elect	256	+ 8½	10.1	4.2	11.6
1,044.70	London Elect	479	+27	16.8	4.7	9.2
663.90	Manweb	542	+22	14.2	4.5	7.8
1,066.40	Midlands Elec	509	+29	17.2	4.5	10.7
652.40	Northern Elec	362	+24½	10.1	4.3	11.6
940.50	Norweb	522	+25	17.7	4.5	9.8
1,145.80	Scottish Power	382	+14½	10.1	4.3	11.6
647.20	Seeboard	308	+14	17.2	4.5	9.2
555.80	Sth Wales	547	+19	19.4	4.7	8.7
608.10	Sth Western	494	+18	17.4	4.7	8.9
1,293.30	Southern Elec	879	+17	16.6	4.6	9.5
1,098.50	Yorkshire Elec	730	+19	17.1	4.6	9.0
4,155.50	National Power	326	+ 9	9.1	3.7	10.3
2,583.90	PowerGen	330	+10	9.2	3.7	10.3

FINANCE, LAND

32.10	Aitken Hume	53	...	...	0.5	...	33.9
11.80	BWD◇	69	+ 5	...	...	6.4	10.5
17.00	Baltic Plc	48	- 2	1.0	2.8	∞
361.90	Caledonia	436	- 3	14.4	4.4	16.7
25.00	Camellia	1400	-30	22.0	2.6	11.4
55.30	Candover	348	...	9.5	5.1	20.5
28.50	Fleetwd◇	83	...	...	...	8.2
189.10	Govett	331	+32	...	6.0	6.7
38.90	Ivory Sime	134	+ 3½	...	6.2	14.2
1.59	LIT	6½	...	...	...	...
0.66	Lightship	12 ⅛	...	...	...	0.6
175.00	Lon Forfaiting◇	175	...	...	6.6	∞
15.40	Manabrin	76	...	...	...	...
10.10	Nat Home Loan	9½	...	...	...	...
16.00	Newmarket	45	...	...	...	...
49.60	Rathbone Bro	252	+ 2	...	2.6	17.8
49.20	Rutland Tst	20	+ 2	0.8	3.3	14.4
30.70	S & U	287	+ 7	...	3.8	10.3
125.10	Stagar & Fried	65	+ 3	2.5	5.1	14.3
180.20	Sothebys	900	...	...	4.6	...
266.00	STF Capital	98	- 1	3.0	4.1	17.7

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

8,245.80	Amer Express	1725 †	+50	...	...	...
599.60	Electra	231	+13	6.7	3.9	31.5
202.40	Henderson Ad	950	+22	41.0	5.8	20.9
295.70	Invesco MIM	118	+ 9	...	3.4	17.3
2,031.10	Jardine Strat	215	+ 7	...	3.4	9.6
608.40	MAI	188	- 3	6.0	4.3	13.7
840.60	MAM	447	+29	11.5	3.4	17.9
575.30	M & G	760	+22	20.0	3.5	20.2
45.70	Smith New Ct	154	+ 9	4.5	3.9	6.1
20.60	Sterling Tst	97 #	...	...	...	8.5
37.80	Trin Hldgs	66	...	...	5.9	...

FOODS

2,285.40	Ali Food	509	+13	14.0	3.7	11.7
1,920.20	ASDA Group	66½	+ 5	...	3.2	21.4
73.60	Acatos & Hutch	223	+ 6	6.5	3.9	12.9
428.80	Albert Fisher	71	+ 4	3.7	7.0	11.8
4,267.20	Argyll	361	+16	9.7	3.4	13.0
90.30	Ashley Group	21½	- ½	0.7	4.7	...
23.60	Assoc Fisheries	134	...	7.0	7.0	26.7
16.80	Banks & Q	200 †	+ 9	8.2	5.5	10.0
65.60	Burt (AG)	347	+ 4	6.5	2.5	∞
7.50	Bensons Crps◇	93	...	...	4.1	9.9
127.10	Berisford Int	128	- 3	...	...	...
947.30	Booker	446	+22	21.7	6.5	13.6
23.40	Bortwick	40½	+ 4	1.1	3.6	28.2
214.90	Brake Bros	443	+13	3.7	1.7	18.5
73.10	Budgen	45	+ 1	...	...	6.8
3,672.90	Cadbury-Schw	695	+26	12.5	3.4	18.2
5.72	Cans Milling	94	...	3.9	6.2	16.8
36.70	Clifford Fd 'A'	256	...	11.5	6.0	12.1
18.40	Cranswick◇	183	- 2	...	5.5	13.5

REPORTING THE WEEK

Smoke signals are good for BAT Industries

CURRENCY benefits and recovery at Eagle Star will help **BAT Industries**, the tobacco to insurance combine chaired by Sir Patrick Sheehy, to unveil a healthy advance in full-year profits when it reports on Wednesday.

Credit Lyonnais Laing expects a 48.6 per cent rise in final pre-tax profits to £1.56 billion (£1.05 billion). Market forecasts range from £1.52 billion to £1.67 billion, as tobacco goes from strength to strength and the Eagle Star insurance arm struggles back from past mortgage indemnity losses.

BAT shares have been under some pressure on the back of fears about US tobacco tax. American tobacco sales are responsible for about 20 per cent of BAT's profits. However, an expected 9 per cent rise in the dividend to between 36.6p and 37p, compared with 33.6p, should help to underpin the shares.

In the first nine months, Eagle Star lost £66 million on continuing operations after improving underwriting results and domestic mortgage provisions of £79 million. A loss of up to £100 million is seen for the year, after £115 million of provisions. This compares with a deficit of £394 million in 1991, after £213 million of mortgage write-offs.

BAT is the world's second-largest tobacco group after America's Philip Morris and a strong fourth quarter should help tobacco profits climb to about £1.2 billion (£1.08 billion).



Ready for the off: Robert Louis-Dreyfus reports his last set of results as the Saatchi & Saatchi chief executive before leaving to join Adidas

TODAY

Interims: Cornwell Parker, Domestic & General Group, High-Point, Kleinwort Development Fund, MR Data Management Group, Sime Darby Bhd. **Finals:** British Biotechnology (third quarter), British Vita, Caldarbum, Clondalkin Group, Doeflex, Fairey Group, Govett & Co, Greggs, Intrum Justitia, Merchants Trust, Perkins Foods, Persimmon, Readymix, RPS Group, Transport Development, USDC Investment Trust, Wyevale Garden Centres. **Economic statistics:** National food survey: Household food consumption (fourth quarter), cyclical indicators for the UK economy (January — second estimate), credit business (January).

TOMORROW

Hillsdown Holdings will suffer a decline in full-year profits as recession has ravaged many of the food manufacturing group's businesses, especially its commodity-based red meat and poultry divisions.

NatWest Securities expects Hillsdown's final pre-tax profits to decline 16 per cent to £156 million (£186.8 million), with a maintained annual dividend of 8.8p and £70 million of extraordinary restructuring costs, mainly relating to disposals and the closure of the UK red meat side. Market forecasts range from £150 million to £165 million.

Saatchi & Saatchi, the advertising group, is expected to report a full-year pre-tax profit of £16 million against a £58.4 million loss. Again no dividend is expected. It will be Robert Louis-Dreyfus last set of results as chief executive before he leaves to join Adidas.

Interims: International Investment Trust Company of Jersey (D), Plct Petroleum, Union Square. **Finals:** BBA Group, De Beers Consolidated Mines, Candover Investments, Glynwed International, Grahams Rintoul Investment Trust, Hillsdown Holdings, Kerry Group, North Midland Construction, Saatchi & Saatchi, Singer & Friedlander, Strong & Fisher (Holdings), Wates City of London Properties. **Economic statistics:** Producer price index numbers (February).

WEDNESDAY

Strong growth in the American soft drinks market and cost cutting in UK beverages should boost profits at **Cadbury Schweppes** *and offset problems elsewhere in the group. The confectionery and soft drinks group is expected to turn in final pre-tax profits of £325 million (£316.4 million), according to Barclays de Zoete Wedd. Market forecasts range from £315 million to £326 million. Analysts expect the full-year dividend to rise to between 12.6p and 13.0p, compared with 12.5p.*

North America should be the star performer, with underlying profits expected to rise by over 16 per cent.

Standard Chartered's *powerful Far East business and strategic restructuring should help full-year profits advance. Pre-tax profit estimates range from £270 million to £335 million, compared with £205 million. Analysts said the strong Far East performance would be offset by losses in most other divisions, mainly in Britain and continental Europe, the Middle East and South Asia. The main setback comes from India where a Bombay stock market scandal has cost the group £100 million in provisions.*

The engineering team at NatWest Securities *expects* **GKN**, *the automotive components group, to report final pre-tax profits of £128 million (£95 million). Market forecasts range from £125 million to £128 million. Full-year profits at* **T&N** *are expected to advance 28 per cent to £63 million, with forecasts between £60 million and £65 million.*

The two companies managed over the past few years to limit the impact of the deep slump in car sales in Britain by solid export performance. But just as the British market seems to be regaining some life, overall European car sales and production are set to fall in 1993, mainly due to slower economic growth in Germany.

Interims: Everest Foods, John Haggas, A&J Muckiow Group. **Finals:** BAT Industries, Cadbury Schweppes, Cluff Resources, Eidos, GKN, Kleinwort Smaller Companies Investment Trust, Medeva, Novo Nordisk, Rosebys, Standard Chartered, T&N, Vickers, Willis Corroon.

THURSDAY

UBS Phillips & Drew expects **BTR**, *the industrial conglomerate, to turn in final pre-tax profits of £1.03 billion (£917 million), including £40 million (£103 million) of disposal profits. Market forecasts range from £1 billion to £1.05 billion.*

There is some concern that **Rolls-Royce**, *the aero engine maker, may cut its dividend, reflecting the fact that the airline industry is still in crisis and putting off new aircraft orders. Analysts predict pre-tax profits of between £50 million and £55 million, while some forecasts rise to £75 million, against £51 million last time. A reduced dividend of 4.5p (7.25p) is predicted, although some think a healthy balance sheet will allow the payout to be maintained from reserves.*

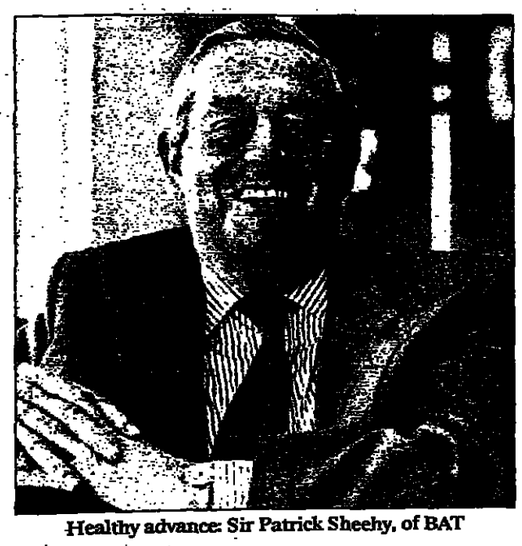
Healthy underlying sales growth should help **Smith & Nephew**, *the medical equipment and consumer products group, to report full-year pre-tax profits ahead to £144.5 million (£132.4 million), according to Hoare Govett. Market forecasts range from £140 million to £148 million.*

Interims: Ben Bailey Construction, Castle Communications, Creston, English & Scottish Investors (D), Enterprise Oil, Lloyds Chemists, Logica, Pochin's, Sirdar. **Finals:** Abbeycrest, Associated British Ports, Blagden Industries, BTR, Christies International, T. Clarke, EFT Group, Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust, D.C. Gardner Group, Kode International, Manders, Northern Engineering Industries, Pentland Group, Refuge Group, Rolls-Royce, Sanderson Murray & Elder, Smith & Nephew, RTZ Corporation, TI Group. **Economic statistics:** Details of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators, capital issues and redemptions (February), CBI survey of distributive trades (February), United Kingdom balance-of payments (fourth quarter).

FRIDAY

Interims: Bolton Group, Thomas Walker. **Finals:** Church & Co, Cussins Property, Forward Technology, Heywood Williams, ISA International, A Jones & Sons, Victaulic. **Economic statistics:** Usable steel production (February), construction output (fourth quarter — provisional), gross domestic product (fourth quarter), personal income, expenditure and saving (fourth quarter), Industrial and commercial companies (fourth quarter).

PHILIP PANGALOS



Healthy advance: Sir Patrick Sheehy, of BAT

WORD WATCH

Answers from page 36

BRUMMER

(b) A species of blowfly generally known as the locust-fly (genus *Wohlfahrtia*), obsolete variant Afrikaans, cf. Dutch *brommen* to hum or buzz. *bromvlieg* bluebottle: "The brummer fly, *Cynomyia pictifacies*, is an insect somewhat like the common house-fly, but considerably larger."

TUDEH

(a) In full, *Tudeh party*, the Communist party of Iran, adaptation of the Persian for *mass*: "In its first phase the Communist movement assumed the characteristics of a democratic front. Its organizational expression was the Tudeh party of Iran, formed in early October, 1941."

LINSANG

(b) A civet-like mammal of the genus *Prionodon*, which includes *Prionodon pardicolor* of south-east Asia and *Prionodon linsang*, found in this region and Sumatra, Java and Borneo: "Banded linsang, *Prionodon linsang*, in Malaya widespread on the mainland at all elevations but nowhere common."

PUNJI

(a) A sharpened (frequently poisoned) bamboo stake set in a camouflaged hole in the ground as a trap for enemy soldiers (or occasionally for animals), origin unknown, probably from a Tibeto-Burman language, frequently attributive as in *punji stake*. *stick*: "Punjis consist of bamboo spikes driven into the ground, almost level with the surface, the earth being scraped away round each so as to form a cup. Hundreds of these are laid in every direction; grass, falling leaves, &c., soon hide them; and if trodden upon they inflict fearful wounds."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Nxe4+ 2 Ke1 Rd1+! 3 Rxd1 Bf2+ 4 Kf1 Rxd1+ mating.

Corporate Japan sees bleak outlook

FROM REUTER
IN TOKYO

CORPORATE Japan is likely to reveal that it sees things going from bad to worse when the nation's closely watched barometer of business conditions, the Tankan, is released today.

Economists say that the Bank of Japan's quarterly survey of more than 7,000 Japanese companies will show firms expect little profit growth and lower capital spending in the near term. Mineko Sasaki-Smith, economist at Credit Suisse, said: *"You can't expect any bright spots from this Tankan."*

She and other economists said that although Japan's economy does not seem to be in markedly worse shape than it was last autumn, many companies feel that recovery is further off than before, perhaps six to nine months away.

So far, government efforts to stimulate the economy, including fiscal pump priming and lower interest rates, have failed to have any visible impact, eroding corporate confidence, *the economists said.*

Japanese firms may have been especially gloomy last month as the yen strengthened during the latter part and there were fears that share prices could slide sharply.

Economists said that the Tankan would be the first of several indicators due out in coming weeks, including gross national product data, that could point to a weak economy.

Together, they could lead authorities to further lower interest rates or try to spur the economy with tax breaks and more public works spending.

The key component of the Tankan is the Bank of Japan's measure of business confidence, the diffusion index. According to a preliminary poll of economists by Reuters, the index for leading manufacturers, which measures the number of companies that are confident about business prospects against those that are pessimistic, will post a minus 48 reading.

That would mark a slightly more pessimistic view than when the last Tankan was conducted in November, when the index posted a minus 44 rating.

GILT-EDGED

Inflation could spell the end of the bull market this year

Optimism is riding high in international bond markets, and the UK is no exception. Clearly, the global rally has been a strong influence on domestic prices, but bullish sentiment since the pound's exit from the ERM has been reinforced by favourable economic data in the past two months.

The combination of better than expected retail prices data, broadly favourable labour market conditions, weak real-economy statistics and positive developments in public sector finances has done much to reinforce hopes that the UK has finally stumbled across the economists' holy grail — growth with low inflation.

If this is the case, the fall in yields from levels not seen for more than 20 years can proceed and be sustained for much longer than is widely believed.

This, and not worries about funding, is the big test for the market in 1993. As events in the past two months have shown, selling large quantities of debt into a rising market is not a problem.

Around the turn of the year, the growing size of the public sector deficit and the huge drain this would be on the market's cash resources was cited as the main reason why the rally in the gilt-edged market could not last long. Since then, a combination of hope and fact has dispelled fears of a funding nightmare.

Chief among the hopes is that next week's Budget will see a relaxation of the full funding rule. The decision to underfund the borrowing requirement would go some way towards alleviating the problem of market liquidity.

On top of this, and more important ultimately, is the presumption that the government will address the substantial structural imbalances in public sector finances, with tax increases and expenditure cuts. It is assumed that these will be delayed until November's unified Budget, so as not to harm recovery.

So much for hope, what about the facts? The improving domestic and international background, and low short-term interest rates, have enabled the markets to absorb a heavy supply of paper. Apart from the flow of equity rights issues and non-government sterling bonds, the government has probably overfunded this year's requirement by up to £4 billion. This estimate is based on a conservative £35 billion PSBR forecast, excluding the £2.9 billion calls on partly paid stocks due after March 31.

Institutions' cash flow may be unable to cope with constant heavy issuance, but with optimism high and interest rates low and threatening to go lower, there has been little reason for institutions investing long-term not to commit a good proportion of their liquid asset holdings (worth more than £40 billion at the end of 1992) to higher yielding, long-dated assets. Barring a disastrous Budget, in which the authorities fail to acknowledge the need to tackle the economy's structural problems, the trend in prices can remain positive. We are at the stage of the business cycle when influences such as rising productivity and falling unit labour costs flatter the inflation backdrop.

But questions remain. Will increases in non-labour costs, resulting from the sterling devaluation and already materialising in the PPI input price series, be passed on to consumers once demand begins to strengthen? After all, the drive to improve profitability must still be an overriding consideration for companies.

Will the government decide ultimately to inflate its way out of its twin deficit problem? After the dramatic policy shift last September, the market cannot be certain.

Evidence of rising final inflation is expected to materialise by the summer. When this becomes again a source of concern, supply will re-emerge as a drag on performance. Issuing large amounts of stock into a market racked by uncertainty is an entirely different game to the one played out since September.

The bull market in gilts may not be over yet. But the dangers of a reversal in fortunes later this year should not be underestimated.

CHRIS ANTHONY
UBS Phillips & Drew

Bank accused of cover up

BY NEIL BENNETT

THE Reserve Bank of India has accused staff from Standard Chartered Bank of entering into ficticious transactions to cover up unaccounted for deals in the bank's investment portfolio during the Bombay stock market scandal last year.

The RBI makes the allegations in its fourth report on the securities fraud, published on Saturday. It says Standard Chartered's staff effectively handed over the running of its securities operation to Hiten Dalal, a prominent broker. The staff expected Mr Dalal to rescue the bank from the large losses it had suffered. The RBI concludes: "As a consequence of this loss of independence, the safeguards customarily used in securities transactions were abandoned."

The report, meanwhile, says that ANZ Grindlays, another bank caught in the scandal, had violated RBI guidelines by financing stock market trading and by entering dummy transactions for Harshad Mahta, another broker.

The RBI has raised its estimate of the size of the fraud by $170 million to $1.27 billion.

Barry Northrop, a Standard executive investigating the fraud, admitted ficticious deals occurred as part of the fraud, but said they were done without the knowledge of the management and broke internal regulations. In London, a spokesman for the bank said they were examining the report and would reply later.

The fraud has so far cost Standard Chartered £118 million in provisions and expenses. It has dismissed seven staff from its Indian operations and disciplined others.

See Reporting This Week

Syndicate 745 names face fresh cash call

BY SARAH BAGNALL

MORE than 1,500 Lloyd's names are to hear this week that their insurance losses have escalated dramatically from earlier forecasts of 300 per cent of their syndicate's capacity.

The fear is that the £75,700 average loss suffered by the 1,750 names on Syndicate 745 is now far higher. Speculation in the Lloyd's market is that the loss could be more than double the present disclosed level of £132.5 million, which represents more than 300 per cent of the syndicate's 1990 capacity of £43.2 million.

Names have already been asked for £43 million to help meet losses, the first instalment of which is due in April and the balance in July. Syndicate 745, which is managed by KPH Underwriting Agencies, specialises in excess of loss business, as did the Gooda Walker and Feltrim syndicates, which between them have made losses of more than a £1 billion. David King, the syndicate's underwriter, resigned last year.

KPH, which today is due to reveal the new loss estimates to the members' agents responsible for putting names on the syndicate, has carried out an exhaustive review into the circumstances surrounding the losses.

An action group, chaired by Ted Benfield, was formed at the start of the year. The group intends to commission a professional investigation into the syndicate accounts.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

071-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

CALDER ASHBY SOCOTEC LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named company will be held at St. Paul's House, Warwick Lane, London, EC4P 4BN at 11.00 am on the 22nd of March 1993, for the purpose of having laid before it a copy of the report prepared by the administrative receivers under section 48 of the said Act. The meeting may, if it thinks fit, establish a committee to exercise the functions conferred on the creditor's committees by or under the Act.
Creditors are only entitled to vote if: (a) they have delivered to us at the address shown above, no later than 1200 hours on the 19th of March 1993 written details of the debts they claim to be due to them from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, and (b) there has been lodged with us any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
Dated: 4th March 1993
David A. Rolph
Joint Administrative Receiver

CAPITAL TELEVISION FACILITIES PLC
Registered number: 1495951. Former company names: MME FACILITIES LTD. MME FACILITIES PLC. Trading name: Capital Television Facilities Ltd. Nature of business: Post Production Television Editing. Trade classification: 46. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 16 February 1993. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Bank of Scotland. All of Banking Group Ltd. Joint Administrative Receivers: Murdoch Laing McGilloss and Marcus Fleman (office holder nos: 5095 and 6470) of Arthur Andersen, PO Box 58 1 Surrey Street London WC2R 2NT.

E. PARKINSON (LONDON) LTD
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of Chantrey Vellacott, Orsham House, 55 Clarendon Road, Watford, Herts. WD1 1LR, on Friday, 19th March 1993 at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and address of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Orsham House, 55 Clarendon Road, Watford, Herts WD1 1LR, between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Dated: 3rd March 1993.
S.J. ALLARD, Director.

In the Matter of VENTUREFORTH ESTATES LIMITED (Company Number 860112) and In the Matter of the Companies Act 1985, section 176
The above-named Company has approved a statement out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by purchase. The amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £3,000,000 and the date of the resolution for payment out of capital was 3rd March 1993. The Statutory Declaration of the Directors and the Auditors' report required by section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at the Company's registered office. Any Creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the resolution for payment out of capital apply to the Court under section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an Order prohibiting the payment.
By Order of the Board.
M.D. FUTTER, Secretary
Registered Office: Argyle House, Riverside Road, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
ROCKINGHAME GARDEN & LEISURE CENTRES LIMITED (In Administrative Receivership)
Notice is hereby given that Anthony Peter Superstone of Messrs. Stoy Hayward, Spencer House, 23 Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 1BN was appointed Liquidator of the above named company at Meetings of the Contributories and Creditors held on the 3rd of March 1993.
A P Superstone, Liquidator.

JAZZY LADY LIMITED (In Liquidation)
THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that I, Jonathan Joseph Schapira, ACA a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs. Leonard Curtis & Co, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 3rd March 1993.
Dated this 3rd day of March 1993.
Jonathan Joseph Schapira, ACA Liquidator, Leonard Curtis & Co., Chartered Accountants, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF.

KINGSFIELD LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of HOOD SONS, George House, 48 George Street, Manchester, M1 4HF, on Tuesday 23rd March 1993 at 11.00 am for the purpose of having laid before it a copy of the report prepared by the Administrative Receivers under Section 48 of the said Act. The meeting may, if it thinks fit, establish a Creditors Committee to exercise the functions conferred on, by or under the Act. Creditors are only entitled to vote if they have delivered to us at the above address, no later than 12.00 hrs on the business day before the meeting, written details of the debts they claim to be due and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of the Insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with us any proxy which the Creditor intends to use on his behalf. Creditors may obtain a copy of the report, free of charge, on application to the Administrative Receivers at the address above.
Date: 3rd March 1993
David Edward Morton Mood FCA and David Bottomley FCA Joint Administrative Receivers.

No. 001156 of 1993
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF INTER-CITY PACKING LIMITED - and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 9th day of February 1993 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £6,510,000 to £2.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on the 17th day of March 1993.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated the 25th day of February 1993.
Beharrell, Thompson & Co
20 Old Bailey
London EC4M 7JP.
Solicitors for the above-named Company

Notice of appointment of Liquidator
Voluntary winding up Members Pursuant to section 109 of The Insolvency Act 1986
Company Number: 1543091.
Name of company: Solarpond Limited. Address of registered office: 78 Hatton Garden, London, EC1N 8JA. Type of liquidation: Members. Liquidator: John Stewart Baird Pannell Kerr Forster New Garden House 78 Hatton Garden London EC1N 8JA. Office holder no: 1074 Date of appointment: 10 February 1993. By whom appointed: The Members. Date: 3 March 1993.

Pakesia Limited
Registered number: 1684353.
Trading name: Fool Fashions.
Nature of business: Wholesale of Textiles and Clothing. Trade classification: 13. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 1st March 1993. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Bank of Credit and Commerce International Societe Anonyme (in Liquidation). Joint Administrative Receivers: N.D Goodman, FCA and P. Moolachy, FCA, (office holder nos: 2407 and 2344) of Leonard Curtis & Co PO Box 553 30 Eastbourne Terrace (2nd Floor) London W2 6LF.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
SUNSHINE REAL ESTATE LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above company will be held at Grant Thornton, Grant Thornton House, Melton Street, Euston Square, London, NW1 2EP on 16th March 1993 at 3.30 pm for the purposes provided in Sections 100 and 101 of the Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of Grant Thornton, Grant Thornton House, Melton Street, Euston Square, London NW1 2EP on 15th and 11th March 1993, 2 business days before the meeting between the hours of 10am and 4pm.
Dated this 28th day of February 1993.
On behalf of Tiasho International N.V. John Piquet Director.

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106
NO. 009274 OF 1992
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
KNOLLCRAY LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that David Alan Stern, Chartered Accountant of Messrs Levy Gee & Partners, 100A Chalk Farm Road, London NW1 8EJ was appointed Liquidator of the above named company on 26 February 1993.
Dated this 1st day of March 1993.
David Alan Stern ACA, Liquidator.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
W.D.L (UK) LIMITED
In Liquidation (Formerly W. Wedel & Co Limited)
NOTICE is hereby given that Phillip Rodney Sykes and John Roger Hill of BDO Binder Hamlyn, 20 Old Bailey, London, EC4M 7BH were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above company on 26 February 1993.
Creditors are required to send their names and addresses and particulars of their claims to the Joint Liquidators on or before 31 March 1993 and if so required by notice in writing from the Joint Liquidators, personally or by their solicitor to come in and prove their debts at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
P.R. Sykes, Joint Liquidator.

The Insolvency Act 1986
INSTALL-A-FLOOR LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington of 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN, was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 23rd February 1993.
Dated this 4th day of March 1993
M.R Dorrington, Liquidator.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS
DAVID SCOTT GAMMELL
At a hearing on 14 December 1992, the Institution's Disciplinary Board considered three charges against Mr Gammell a Fellow practising as Townsend Gammell & Co., Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, London W1. The first charge related to his failure to procure professional indemnity insurance. The second, to his submission to the Institution of a certificate declaring that he was insured in accordance with the Compulsory Professional Indemnity Insurance Regulations, when this was not the case. The third charge was in respect of his failure to produce copies of his current and previous policy of insurance, when required to do so by the Professional Conduct Committee.
The Board found proved all three charges, and, in respect of the first and second charges, ordered that Mr Gammell be expelled from Membership of the Institution. No order was imposed in respect of the third charge.
Mr Gammell appealed against the penalty imposed, but on 3 March 1993 the Appeals Board affirmed the Disciplinary Board's decision.

LEGAL NOTICES

VIDEO SYSTEMS HIRE LTD.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London, W2 6LF, on Wednesday, the 17th day of March 1993 at 10.30 am for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq.
A list of names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors
Dated the 3rd day of March 1993.
H.R. CONNELL, Director.

COMPANY NOTICES

QUEBEC CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY
Notice to Security Holders
The Annual General Meeting of the Security Holders of Quebec Central Railway Company will be held in the Conference Room, Room 158, Windsor Station, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on Wednesday, the 21st day of April, 1993, at the hour of 11:00 o'clock in the forenoon for presentation of the financial statements, the election of two directors to represent the Security Holders of the Company until the next Annual General Meeting of the Company; the appointment of the auditor of the Company; and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
D.J. Kemp, Secretary
MONTREAL, Quebec,
February 25, 1993.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - The Adelaide Litten Trust Funds.
The Commissioners propose to make an Order appointing Trustees of this Charity. Copies of the draft Order can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference ALB-219812-MI-LL.
Objections and suggestions can be sent within one month from today.

PUBLIC NOTICES

MONOPOLIES AND MERGERS COMMISSION

MMC INQUIRY INTO CONTRACEPTIVE SHEATHS

Sir Bryan Carsberg, Director General of Fair Trading, has asked the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to investigate and report on whether a monopoly situation exists in the supply of contraceptive sheaths in the United Kingdom. The Commission will be considering the supply, distribution and retail of contraceptive sheaths, including the suppliers' level of profitability and whether price competition in this market is as effective as it might be.

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the full terms of reference, or to submit evidence should write to: The Reference Secretary (Rm 502), Monopolies and Mergers Commission, New Court, 48 Carey Street, London WC2A 2JT. (Fax: 071-324 1400). Any evidence should be submitted before 31 March 1993.

Using sterling's competitive edge to sell Britain plc

ECONOMIC VIEW

With a large current account deficit, it is vital that manufacturers take full advantage of their current export potential.

Janet Bush reports

John Major, apparently a closet fan of manufacturing industry during his time at the Treasury under Nigel Lawson and later as Chancellor, has been painfully outed. The selling of Britain plc has begun.

The prime minister not only revealed that he had always favoured manufacturing over services during the 1980s but also last week urged British exporters to become more aggressive in promoting their products in foreign markets, and said he was happy to take businessmen on foreign diplomacy junkets, if they thought it would help. There is still some way to go before the government can convince it really is interested in industry. Although the Treasury has started sending mandarins on fact-finding trips to manufacturers, the trade and industry department, when asked for anecdotal evidence of how exporters were performing, said they had no information.

Still, John Major has made a late (14 years late) start in recognising that Britain must produce at home and sell as much as it buys from abroad. With a huge current account deficit throughout the recession, it has never been more vital that British companies make the most of sterling's devaluation.

The signs are reasonably auspicious. In spite of the fact that industry's input prices jumped more than 7 per cent in the year to January, as the first effects of sterling's depreciation came through on imports, factory gate prices were up only 3.5 per cent. Of course, there are always substantial lags before higher costs feed through to prices of finished products, not least because many companies hedge their sterling exposure six to nine months ahead. But there appear to be deeper forces at work, at least temporarily, which should keep price rises at bay and therefore maximise the competitive advantage from devaluation.

The 1967 devaluation of sterling gave companies a breathing space of about four years. At the end of that short period, companies had raised their margins enough to wipe out its effects. It is not beyond reason to hope this time that the process may be somewhat slower because demand at home is so slack and the debt-laden recovery is likely to be so anaemic that it will be difficult to raise prices substantially.

Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, says he wants to pass on price rises of 5 to 20 per cent, reflecting higher import costs of Japanese electronic equipment. Being a retailer, a business based on margins, he believes that all input prices are passed on to the consumer. But what if he cannot sell anything at the higher price? His answer: "I am currently offering my customers a nice shiny bunch of yellow bananas. If they can't afford to buy them, I will offer them bruised fruit instead. That's the only way my business survives."

Very few industrialists believe they can raise prices aggressively for the home market for some time, and many of them can afford to hang on. As the Bank of England noted recently, margins have held up much better during this recession than in the early 1980s and, in addition, unit labour costs are still moving downwards. Together, they provide some leeway on pricing.

David Pennock, chairman of Astell Scientific, which manufactures laboratory equipment, commented: "Manufacturers with high, fixed-cost bases have got to pay their bills. That's going to be a lot easier with a 5 per cent to 10 per cent rise in volume than a 2 per cent increase in prices."

With domestic prices apparently battened down for the time being, there is a marvellous incentive to charge into export markets and rebuild profits that way — indeed, export margins have risen dramatically. Throughout the recession, there has been little choice for those firms bent on survival but to look overseas for demand and, what is cheering, is that many companies seem determined to go for maximum growth in export market share rather than raising export price margins.

Avon Rubber makes anything rubber from inflatable dinghys to a vast array of items for the car industry. With plants in France and the US, 60 per cent of its production is bought by customers outside the UK. Helped substantially by devaluation, Avon says the company is much more interested in launching an attack on the European auto components market than raising margins.

On the import price side of the equation, there are tentative signs that the impact of sterling's devaluation may not turn out to be quite as severe as in the past because overseas economies are under ever more intense competitive pressure and are experiencing painful economic slowdown.

PAL International makes headware and hygiene products for the drug and food industries and exports 50 per cent of output. Richard Brucciani, PAL chairman and head of the CBI's smaller firms council, believes devaluation will help increase exports of chefs' hats to France by 15 per cent. What is interesting about his experience since devaluation is the behaviour of his suppliers of imported raw materials. He buys paper and non-woven materials from Sweden and France. Sweden has also devalued so prices are no higher, but France has not. But, PAL's French supplier matched Swedish prices to keep the business. Mr Brocciani said: "There's a lot of evidence that foreign suppliers are prepared to squeeze margins to get the orders."

Something similar has been seen at Courtaulds Textiles, where Martin Taylor, chairman and chief executive, has been surprised to see that the costs of imported raw materials like dye stuffs have not risen by the 20 per cent he had expected. With a number of large customers, such as Italy and Spain, also devaluing their currencies, importers may have no choice but to keep prices competitive or lose business.

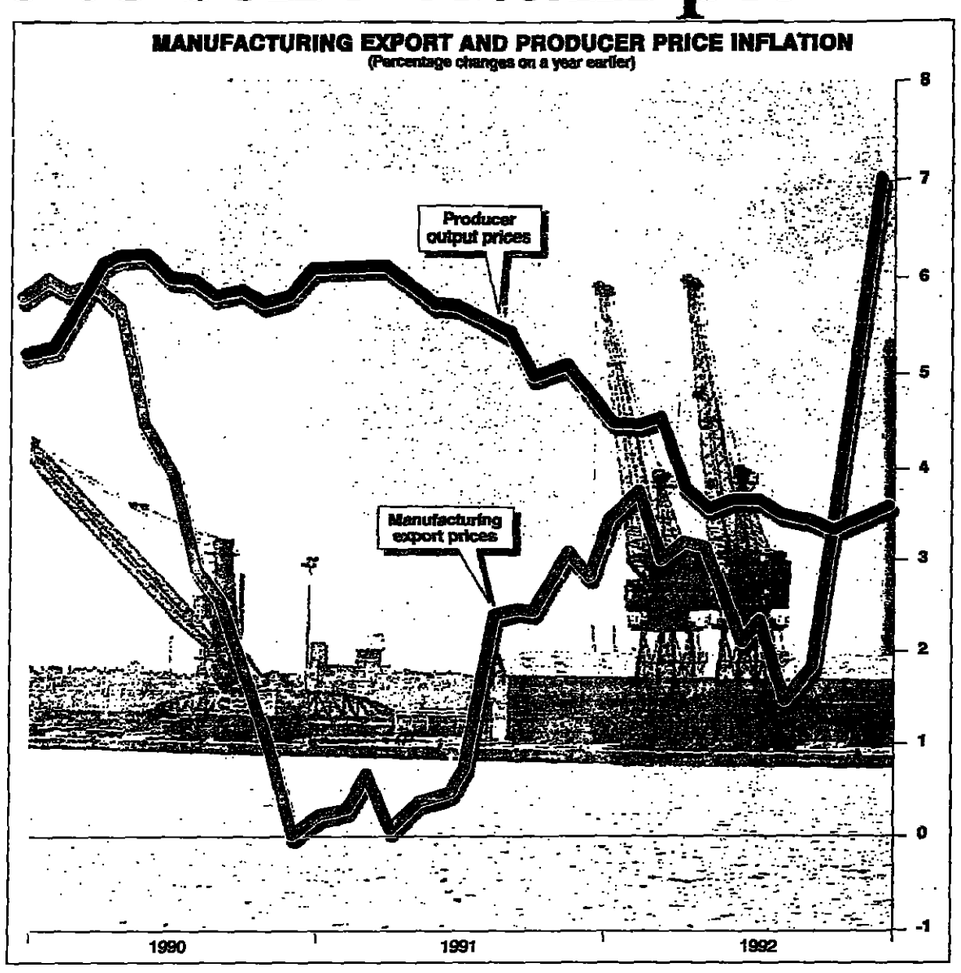
On the negative side of the equation, exports to Europe are exceedingly difficult with European markets "collapsing", but Mr Taylor is optimistic on the whole. "If we can keep domestic costs under control, we have a chance of making a very good devaluation."

The judge and jury of a successful devaluation is not just increasing export market share but substituting imports. In the case of Courtaulds, sheer price factors help and, after the usual lags, the flood of cheap clothing from the Far East should be stemmed somewhat. But in many of those British sectors where capacity has been run down, it takes considerable time to crank up again. Mr Kalms professes himself disappointed that British manufacturers of white goods such as microwaves have not competed more successfully with imports.

The hope now is that government will do its best to encourage an export and investment-led recovery. On a micro level, there is much to be done. Any extra tax on the corporate sector must be avoided in the Budget. Red tape must be cut. The government should send a signal to private companies by settling its bills promptly and using its influence with commercial banks to make sure they provide the finance necessary if British firms are to make successful forays into new markets.

On a macro-economic level, it should make sure there is not a consumer revival that sucks in imports until higher exports are well entrenched. The public sector deficit is excuse enough to raise personal taxes to keep potential big spenders at bay. Even more crucial, the government must prevent sterling from appreciating any further, if necessary by lowering interest rates. If we want an export-led recovery, a strong pound is a sell signal.

MANUFACTURING EXPORT AND PRODUCER PRICE INFLATION
(Percentage changes on a year earlier)



Testing Lamont's resolve

STERLING's surge above the DM2.40 level last Friday, to a region it has not occupied since mid-January, could make the Chancellor regret his categoric refusal to consider any further cut in base rates in the near term. If the pound's rise continues, such a cut will become both desirable and necessary to maintain the momentum of what is still a weak economic recovery.

There is a good chance that sterling will continue to climb in the next two weeks, as the French elections approach and the market prepares for the Bundesbank to cut its discount rate at its next meeting. The rise will be enhanced if overseas investors decide that sterling has turned and buy the currency to take advantage of long-dated gilts with yields of almost 8.3 per cent.

If the pound rises above DM2.50, any inflationary fears the Treasury may hold about lower rates would be dispelled. The government could order another full point off base rates and the pound could still end up looking stronger than it did three weeks ago.

On the reverse side, a pound that is worth more than DM2.50 will almost certainly stunt recovery prospects. Britain's industry now depends on a weak currency to be able to trade into the growing recession and weakening demand in continental Europe. The recovery is tentative enough without the government throwing away the one clear competitive advantage the country now has.

Unfortunately, the Chancellor has been too categoric in his pronouncements to cut the base rate before the Budget. This should not prevent him from examining the situation soon after. After all, if the government can justify a further rate cut as both prudent and necessary, it would be favoured by the markets, industrialists and the electorate alike: favour it badly needs.

Cookson

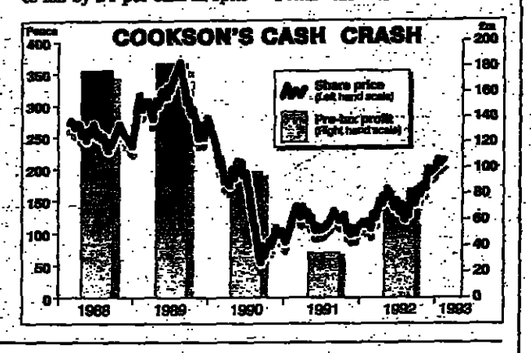
COOKSON shareholders who took up their rights two years ago will be happy with an 84 per cent capital gain against a notional ex-rights price of 193p. The potential rewards from last week's rights issue are not so obvious.

The group gives three reasons for the cash call. First, it wants to fund organic growth. But Ian Barr, the finance director, says he has no plans to increase capital expenditure in the coming year. Second, it plans about £70 million of complementary bolt-on acquisitions. But these could have been funded largely by its disposal programme and a reduction in working capital. Finally, the group is keen to reduce gearing, which has risen to 74 per cent.

Here we come to the real reason. In spite of 1991's rights issue, borrowings are once again at unsustainable levels, having risen by £125 million during 1992 to £341 million. The operations are still not generating sufficient cash to enable the group to trade its way out of debt.

Last year, net cash inflow from the operating businesses fell by 24 per cent in spite of a jump in profits. Recovery has not come quickly enough and with little upturn expected in the group's major markets, the management had little alternative but to seek new funding.

Shareholders, however, do have an option. On a prospective p/e ratio of 16.6 on the ex-rights price, there is better value elsewhere.



VAT on food

SPECULATION over the imposition of VAT on food has had an adverse impact on the food retailing sector, which has underperformed the market by 8 per cent in the past month. These fears have been overdone.

Even if the Chancellor does extend the VAT base, it may not hit retailers' profits as hard as is being widely assumed, since up to 40 per cent of their turnover is subject to VAT already. The proportion is even higher at companies such as Asda, which has a broad range of non-food items.

Customers are unlikely to change their spending habits significantly over the longer term, although there may be a short-term reaction. Any "trading down" could benefit the retailers' own-label brands, which often deliver higher margins. If margins do come under pressure, particularly during a phased introduction of any VAT increases, retailers will ensure food manufacturers share some of that burden.

The government will probably only tinker with VAT on food this time. Introducing the standard 17.5 per cent VAT rate on food is tempting, since it would raise nearly £7 billion of revenue, but it is politically difficult not least because it would add 2.3 per cent to the retail price index.

A reduced rate of 5 per cent, similar to that in other leading European countries, would still raise £2 billion but have a minimal impact on inflation. James Capel has calculated that a 5 per cent rate would impact earnings in the sector by only 2 per cent.

Continuing uncertainty will probably depress the shares until March 16. Ironically, investors could be better off if any changes in VAT are settled then, rather than have the concerns revived in the autumn.

City property

THE wave of foreign investment in the British property market would seem to fly in the face of reason and property indices. Last year, overseas buyers, mostly German funds and private money from the Gulf, spent £1.2 billion on British property, with most of that going into our most depressed market — London office space. The City, where rents fell more than 30 per cent last year, took 32 per cent of the cash inflow and market evidence suggests a continuing trend, with yields on some well-let office properties being chased down below 10 per cent.

Unfortunately, the buying interest is unlikely to be a sign that the market is turning. Recent indices show that office rents are still falling. Companies with portfolios that are biased towards central London are suffering writedowns because the rents they are earning are substantially higher than those available on the open market.

This over-rented sector is the one attracting the foreign money and persuading leading City landlords to sell buildings which are ex-growth. Long leases with upward-only reviews represent a secure source of income when the tenant is blue-chip and yields are well ahead of the cost of funds. However, with long gilts' yields at about 8.3 per cent, yields on the soundest covenants are unlikely to fall below 9 per cent, so even this limited market is unlikely to rally much further.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Showdown on Wall Street

WALL Street has likened it to a high-stake poker game: it is the tense showdown between James Robinson III and the board of American Express. Robinson, Amex's high-flying chairman and chief executive, was fired by the board last month. Apparently, the compensation package is not sufficiently generous to sustain Robinson in these recessionary times. Amex has offered him $730,000 a year to cover retirement benefits: $1.1 million as severance pay; and $2.8 million as deferred compensation to be paid over the next three years on the condition that he does not try to lure executives — or customers — from Amex. But Robinson is holding out for more: an executive assistant, the use of Amex's fleet of corporate jets, a three-year consulting position and company backing for a chair to be endowed at Harvard Business School. Amex shareholders believe they've been generous enough: so generous, in fact, he has now been told to leave his apartment (owned by his former employers) next to New York's Museum of Modern Art.

Well suited

FEW companies could hope for clients more loyal than Major-General Maurice Broomhall, who has been ordering his suits and sporting wear exclusively from DEGE Savile Row for 77 years. The 95-year-old general, who escaped from a PoW camp in the second world war dressed as a German general, has just issued his latest instructions to the bespoke tailors: a new sports coat and trousers. Michael Skinner, the DEGE managing director, said: "I first met him 43 years ago. We made his first suit for him when he was 18, and here we are 77 years later, still without competition. Such loyalty is highly unusual."

Lloyd's cheer

JOHN Charnley, one of the multitude of Lloyd's names hit with massive insurance losses over the past few years, is managing director of Hampshire-based Wickham Vineyard, in which wine lovers are being offered shares under the Business Expansion Scheme. He is offering other beleaguered names two ways of numbing the pain of their losses: get tax relief on their investment and a discount on wine purchased from the vineyard.

Changing places

MERRILL Lynch, now pulling out all the stops to build up a pan-European research team to match its growing institutional sales business, has lost its utilities analyst — just four months after hiring him. John Reynolds, who was recruited from the electricity industry last November, is now to join James Capel. He replaces Dr Tony White. Reynolds, not to be confused with three others in the City who share his name — the PR man at Shandwick, the corporate financier at Schroeders, and the equities analyst at County NatWest — starts his new job on March 15.

Lotus position

RUMOURS are racing around about the future of Lotus cars, with General Motors apparently ready to sell off the Norfolk sports car maker. The most elusive man at last week's Geneva Motor Show was Adrian Palmer, Lotus's managing director, who avoided talking to anyone but GM executives. GM seems indecisive about his proposed management buyout, but he believes Lotus has a future as a specialist, even if it made only 350 cars a year. At least he did not have to travel far to track down his quarry. Lotus's stand was only 30 feet from the GM stand.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

BARCLAYS



"I feel such a fool, asking you for advice ..."

Tackling pension scheme fraud

From Mr Sean Hand

Sir, I refer to Sara McConnell's article "More recruits shun their company pension scheme" (March 3).

It is stated that, "... the NAPF found that only a 'negligible' 1 per cent of those eligible for continuing membership of schemes had withdrawn in spite of increased fears about security of pension fund assets".

This statement should be treated with great caution. It is widely accepted that Robert Maxwell-type pension scheme fraud, most frequently occurs in small to medium-sized schemes.

A study in the *Employment Gazette* of February 1992 (cited at the NAPF annual conference in 1992) indicated that at the end of 1989, of the 3 million businesses in the UK (doubtless the number is now lower) 95 per cent employed fewer than 20 people. Less than 0.1 per cent of all firms employed more than 500 people. Pensions coverage rates among the smaller companies have never been high and these companies will not be caught by the NAPF survey.

In addition, we should not forget the 4.5 million personal pensions now in existence, although many of these were sold as state earnings related pension scheme substitutes, rather than for substantive pension provision.

As has been demonstrated, insured pension arrangements are just as susceptible to fraud as self-administered schemes.

The most important point perhaps is that the loyalty of employees to occupational pension schemes (merited in the case of well run schemes) should not be taken by the government as justification for rejecting the calls for fundamental reform of pensions law and regulation in the wake of the Maxwell affair.

Yours faithfully,
SEAN HAND
(Pensions Partner),
Dibb Lupton Broomhead,
Solicitors,
125 London Wall,
EC2.

Advertising, Unilever and a bank's bad debt

From Mr Peter Field

Sir, I refer to Paul Belshaw's comment (March 3) on the coverage given to two pertinent figures in the results of NatWest Bank and Unilever.

A past chairman of Unilever once remarked that half of the money spent by his company on advertising was wasted, the catch was that he did not know which half. To make a true comparison, one needs to know the recovery rate of NatWest's bad debts!

Yours sincerely,
PETER FIELD,
9 Underhill Close,
Maidenhead,
Berkshire.

Letters to *The Times*
Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

A positive approach to insolvency

From Mr Steve Hill

Sir, Firstly, thank you for two articles on your Accountancy page today (March 4), by Professor Roger Gregory and Tim Olsen, which actually have something positive to say about the insolvency profession. Roger Gregory, however, in referring to "detractors" who are clamouring for law reform, appears at least in part to be referring to Coopers & Lybrand, and to our recently published annual insolvency review.

I welcome his contribution to the debate, and I agree that part of the problem may well lie with practitioners who occasionally opt for over-engineered solutions rather than simple ones, but that is perhaps understandable against a background of increasing litigation against professionals who are perceived in some way to have underperformed.

The whole area of professional negligence, and the "deep pocket" syndrome, underpins a culture whereby I am at risk if I recommend a cheap and cheerful approach to a client seeking rescue. If it fails, and the client then argues that more could have been done (at greater expense, but he will say with hindsight that he would have been delighted to pay that to save his business), I face a claim.

We also point out in our review that engendering a rescue culture requires much more than the goodwill of practitioners, and indeed more than some simple legislation changes. It requires significant changes in attitudes by the management of troubled companies, who must be willing to seek help before creditors have lost too much money. Legislation can be fine-tuned to encourage this, for example by increasing the risks for directors who recklessly carry on regardless.

A rescue culture also requires change by some creditors who must be more willing to forego the vicarious satisfaction of seeing the management "punished" by the blunt instrument of liquidation, in favour of a rather more dispassionate examination of the merits of giving them a second chance, provided only that there is a sensible proposal on the table. We specifically recommend abolition of the remedy of distress, which allows certain classes of creditor, mainly in the public sector, to close down a debtor without notice, by seizing assets which in equity "belong" to all creditors, most of whom do not have access to such a draconian remedy.

In summary, I have much sympathy with Professor Gregory's views, but it is over-optimistic to hope that the solution lies in professionals trying a little harder to make the existing legislation work. We have had many opportunities to do that, but the fact remains that in 1992 there were 76 company voluntary arrangements and 120 administration orders, out of some 80,000 insolvencies.

Nobody can argue that this represents a success for the two main innovations of the 1986 legislation, and at least a part of the solution must be to re-examine that legislation.

Yours faithfully,
STEVE HILL,
(Partner),
Coopers & Lybrand,
Chartered Accountants,
Plumtree Court, EC4.

Super-rich mortgages

From Mr K. Power

Sir, I was incensed to read of social security secretary Peter Lilley's plans (Aid cut for 'super-rich' mortgages, March 1) to cap the level at which social security claimants' mortgages will be paid by the state in future. In justifying his plans, Mr Lilley cited the "super rich" with "mega mortgages who made no provision against tough times".

First, it is naive of Mr Lilley to presume the lack of provision in all cases. Is it not the receiver in the case of individual's companies being wound up who lays claim on behalf of the creditors to all savings, pensions etc of the directors of those companies? Thus, planned provisions can be swallowed up all too easily in paying off creditors.

Second, the "former millionaire" quoted to support Mr Lilley's argument further was also quoted as having previously earned £400,000 per annum. The taxation and National Insurance contributions on this salary would have exceeded £160,000 per annum.

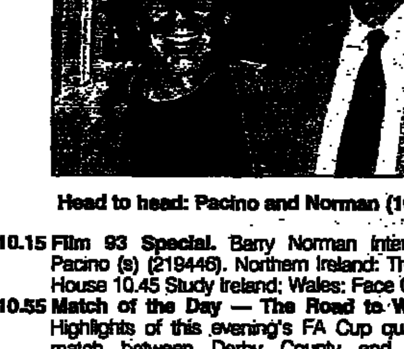
It would seem to me a disincentive to working hard and buying oneself a home under the fear of one day losing one's business and home in rapid succession. Or is it the case that only the poor can now afford to buy their home with a mortgage?

Homelessness is a tragedy for rich and poor alike: a point missed by Mr Lilley, particularly in view of John Major's stated objective of creating a classless society.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH POWER,
1 Park Row Gardens,
Cyfartha,
Merthyr Tydfil.

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (77885) **7.00 Breakfast News** (75319330)
9.05 Kilroy (s) (5499953) **9.45 Ross King.** Game show (s) (4785682)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (5877345) **10.05 Playdays.** For the very young (s) (7418885)
10.30 Good Morning . . . with Anne and Nick. Weekday *magazine series (58075972)*
12.15 Pebble Mill. Alan Titchmarsh celebrates International Women's Day (s) (6720156) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (29032595)
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. (Ceefax) *Weather (42866)*
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (41990363) **1.50 Eldorado** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (35088953)
2.20 Dallas. The Ewings decide to put an end to their feuding over Southfork (r). (Ceefax) (s) (2438359) ***3.10 Family Affairs*** presented by Gloria Hunniford and Caron Keating (s) (7240205)
3.40 Cartoon (2541175) **3.45 Stoppit and Tidyup** (r) (2540446) **3.50 Poddington Peas.** Animation (r) (2941601) **3.55 Radio Roo.** Episode ten of the 13-part children's comedy drama (s) (8123934) **4.10 Jackanory.** Terry Jones with his story, *Ship of Fools* (s) (1965156) **4.20 Rude Dog and the Dweebs** (r) (8960243) **4.35 Peter Pan and the Pirates.** Animation (r). (Ceefax) (3107601)
4.55 Newsround (6281514) **5.05 Blue Peter.** Diane-Louise Jordan tries a new type of hovercraft. (Ceefax) (s) (6787205)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (361953). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (595)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (175). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Eldorado. (Ceefax) (s) (9866)
7.30 Watchdog. The consumer series investigates the pitfalls of "free" flight and holiday offers. (Ceefax) (359)
8.00 2 Point 4 Children. Offbeat domestic comedy series starring Belinda Lang and Gary Olsen (r). (Ceefax) (s) (8514)
8.30 Bonjour la Classe. Nigel Planer stars as the ineffectual minor public school French master, this week inadvertently poisoning the head of modern languages with a dodgy mussel. (Ceefax) (s) (7021)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (5885)
9.30 Panorama: Arming for Islam. Jane Corbin investigates evidence suggesting that Iran is amassing weapons of mass destruction (319750)

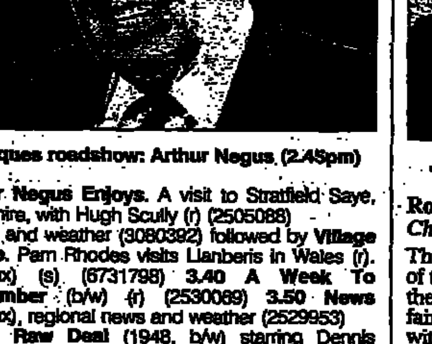


Head to head: Pacino and Norman (10.15pm)

10.15 Film 93 Special. Barry Norman interviews Al Pacino (s) (219446). Northern Ireland: The Corner House 10.45 Study Ireland; Wales: Face Off
10.55 Match of the Day — The Road to Wembley. Highlights of this evening's FA Cup quarter-final match between Derby County and Sheffield Wednesday (459137). Northern Ireland: 11.05 Film 93
11.45 Who Cares Now? Series about the care of the elderly, presented by Jonathan Miller (r). (Ceefax) (624663). Northern Ireland: Match of the Day 12.35-1.05 Who Cares Now?; Wales: Film 93 12.25 Who Cares Now? 12.55 News and weather
12.15am Weather *(6944170)*

BBC2

7.10 Open University: The History of Mathematics (3031972) **7.35** Changing Britain: Made in Dundee (7147175) **8.00 Breakfast News** (3602408)
8.15 Westminster (3625359)
8.30 Under Sail. Boats designed to cope with the changing tides of the River Crouch (r) (4050175)
8.50 A Week To Remember (b/w) (7376330)
9.00 Daytime On Two. Educational programmes, including, for children, **1.20 Mr Benn** (57507392) **1.35 Bunyip** (86953934)
2.00 News and weather followed by **Storytime** (r) (23542205) **2.15 Regional Westminster Programmes** (r) (753514). Northern Ireland: Greenfingers



Antiques roadshow: Arthur Negus (2.45pm)

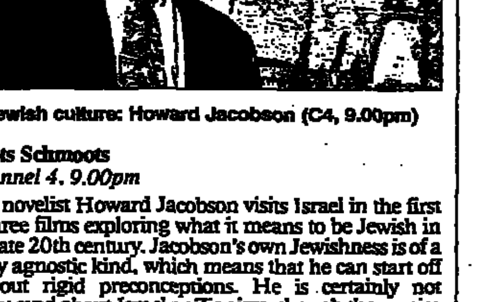
2.45 Arthur Negus Enjoys. A visit to Stratfield Saye, Berkshire, with Hugh Scully (r) (2505088)
3.00 News and weather (3080392) followed by **Village Praise.** Pam Rhodes visits Llanberis in Wales (r). (Ceefax) (s) (6731798) **3.40 A Week To Remember** (b/w) (r) (2530089) **3.50 News** (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2529953)
4.00 Film: Raw Deal (1948, b/w) starring Dennis O'Keefe and Claire Trevor. Tough gangster drama directed by Anthony Mann (9158392)
5.20 Holiday Outings. The Queensland rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef (r) (s) (1755682)
5.30 Gardeners' World. Geoff Hamilton explores the world of herbs (r). (Ceefax) (s) (224)
6.00 The Addams Family (b/w) (r). (Ceefax) (764392)
6.25 DEF II: Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. American comedy series (s) (859934) **6.50 Cyberzone.** The last in the virtual reality game show (s) (832296)
7.20 Animation Now (887137)
7.30 A Secret World Of Sex: The Kiss of Death. The last programme of the series traces the history of venereal disease during the first half of the century (r). (Ceefax) (601)
8.00 Horizon: Iceman. (Ceefax) (s) See Choice (678953)
8.50 Lucinda Lambton's Alphabet of Britain. For the letter "K", Lucinda Lambton explores the Kensal Green district of London. (Ceefax) (s) (335868)
9.00 Film: Hearts of Fire (1987) starring Rupert Everett, Bob Dylan and Fiona Flanagan. Dismal musical drama about a young rock singer who joins two established stars in order to further her career. *Directed by Richard Marquand. (Ceefax) (s) (4156)*
10.30 Newsnight with Francine Stock (211309)
11.15 The Late Show. Michael Ignatieff on the cultural malaise at the heart of British politics (s) (130885) **11.55 Weather** (866866)
12.00 The Present in the Past: Greek Drama. What is the most important element in producing ancient Greek drama today? (2559489). Ends at **12.25am**
2.00 Nightschool TV. Personal and Social Development (81335). Ends at **4.00**

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CHOICE

A Statement of Affairs
ITV, 9.00pm

Eric Deacon's thriller concerns three couples in their thirties whose lives obligingly fall apart at more or less the same time. Obligingly, that is, for the sake of the plot. The most troubled pair are the accountant (Adrian Dunbar) and *his actress wife* (Frances Barber). Seemingly the perfect match, their hidden agenda includes dodgy business deals, mysterious telephone calls and a pregnancy. Not far behind is the builder (Dorian Healy) with a gambling obsession and financial troubles. For the policeman (David Threlfall) life is generally sour and is about to get worse. Events build slowly at first, through hints and nudges, before exploding into melodrama. *A Statement of Affairs* continues after *News at Ten* and concludes tomorrow.



Jewish culture: Howard Jacobson (C4, 9.00pm)

Roots Schmoots
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The novelist Howard Jacobson visits Israel in the first of three films exploring what it means to be Jewish in the late 20th century. Jacobson's own Jewishness is of a fairly agnostic kind, which means that he can start off without rigid preconceptions. He is certainly not starry-eyed about Israel or Zionism, though the precise drift of his film is hard to fathom. For one thing he seems to assume that his viewers are as familiar with Jewish culture as he is. Do we all immediately know what the Cabbala is? For another his pithy, epigrammatic style is sometimes too clever for its own good. But he is an engaging guide who can manage to be irreverent without giving offence.

Horizon: Iceman
BBC2, 8.00pm

In September 1991 two hikers on holiday in the Alps stumbled upon a body frozen in a glacier. It turned out to be one of the most important archaeological discoveries since Howard Carter opened the tomb of Tutankhamun. For the corpse had been there for more than 5,000 years, astonishingly well preserved and full of clues about the lifestyle of Stone Age man. The story is admirably told in Katharine Everett's film, first shown last year and now updated. Amid arguments about who actually owned the body, which was found bang on the Italian-Austrian border, scientists got to work. The outcome was an intriguing piece of detective work which not only managed to date the remains but reveal where the man came from, how he made his living and even his size of shoe.

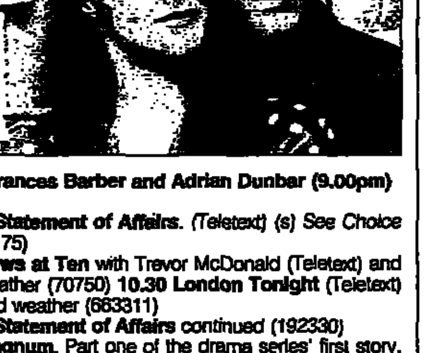
South: Broken Mirrors
Channel 4, 11.00pm

Tonight's films from the developing world highlight the plight of women in Latin America, Africa and the Philippines. The most graphic, from a Ghanaian director, concerns genital mutilation and is definitely not for the squeamish. Only belief in a male God, it is suggested, would allow such an assault on female sexuality. Another film asks what will happen to some 55,000 Filipino women now that the Americans have evacuated their naval bases. Imperialists they may have been, but at least the US servicemen created a huge demand for bar girls. The Americans are the implicit villains of the third piece, which charts the struggle of poor Hispanic women to scratch a living in the United States.

Peter Waymark

ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV. The guests include Sheila Gish, one of the stars of *Brighton Belles,* the British version of American comedy series *The Golden Girls* (8018514)
9.25 Jeopardy! Steve Jones has the answers, the contestants have to provide the questions *(3952779)* ***9.55 London Today*** *(Teletext)* and weather (7494205)
10.00 The Time . . . The Place . . . Discussion programme (1013330)
10.35 This Morning. Magazine series (90744530)
12.10 Tots TV. *Children's puppet show* (s) (6202137)
12.30 Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Carol Barnes. (Teletext) Weather (4334069) **1.05 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (57522601)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama. *(Teletext) (766088)* **1.45 A Country Practice.** Medical drama (s) (765359)
2.15 Capital Woman. Anneka Rice with survival advice for London-based women (740040) **2.45 Families.** Soap linking the north of England with Australia (s) (9677717)
3.10 ITN News headlines (3008798) **3.15 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (3007069) **3.20 Blockbusters.** General knowledge quiz (s) (9235040)
3.50 The Real Ghostbusters *(r)* (3284866) **4.15 Runaway Bay.** Episode four of a 13-part children's drama. (Teletext) (s) (368595) **4.45 Go Wild!** Environmental fun presented by Chris Packham and Craig Charles (3189205)
5.10 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (6704972)
5.40 Early Evening News (Teletext) Weather (988779)
6.00 London Tonight presented by Alastair Stewart and Fiona Foster. The guests include Danny DeVito and Howard Keel. (Teletext) (93214)
7.00 Wish You Were Here . . ? Reports from Vietnam, Spain's Santiago de Compostela and a weekend break near Torquay. (Teletext) (s) (4934)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (427)
8.00 September Song. Russ Abbot and Michael Williams star in the comedy drama about middle age. (Teletext) (s) (3682)
8.30 World in Action: The Poison on Your Plate. An investigation into the rise in the cases of food poisoning in Britain (s) (2717)

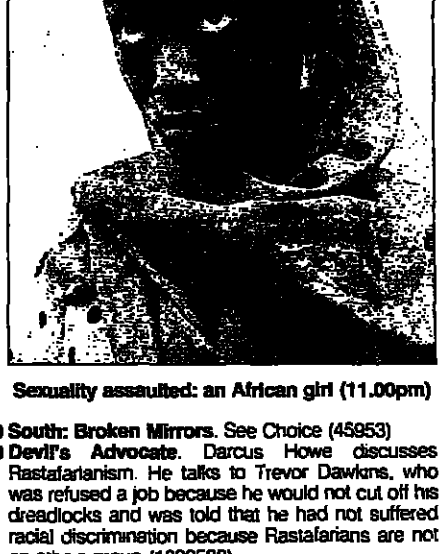


Frances Barber and Adrian Dunbar (9.00pm)

9.00 A Statement of Affairs. *(Teletext) (s) See Choice* (1175)
10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald (Teletext) and weather (70750) **10.30 London Tonight** (Teletext) and weather (663311)
10.40 A Statement of Affairs continued (192330)
11.40 Magnum. Part one of the drama series' first story, starring Tom Selleck (119427)
12.30am The Beat. Music and reviews introduced by Gary Crowley (s) (90064)
1.30 Sport AM. Includes golf highlights from the Mediterranean Open (74809)
2.30 60 Minutes. American news magazine (67083)
3.30 Videofashion. New York designers' spring/summer creations (40557) **4.00 Hollywood Report.** Showbusiness gossip (r) (21422)
4.30 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema. The latest American releases reviewed (r) (10903)
5.00 Riviera. French drama serial (94731)
5.30 ITN Morning News (83064). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Sesame Street. Early learning programme (r) (6445175)
6.45 Dennis. Animated adventures of a mischievous boy (9529021)
7.00 The Big Breakfast presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (65717)
9.00 You Bet Your Life. American game show (s) (97427)
9.30 Schools (492359)
12.00 Right to Reply. A discussion about violence on television (r). (Teletext) (s) (77663)
12.30 Sesame Street. The guest is James Taylor (23021) **1.30 Lift Off.** Children's entertainment (s) (27156)
2.00 Film: The Whole Truth (1958, b/w) starring Stewart Granger, George Sanders and Donna Reed. Solid murder mystery about an American film director framed for killing his mistress while working in Nice. Directed by John Guillermin (409311)
3.35 Film: Tip Tap Toe (1932, b/w). A musical short starring Hal LeRoy as a dancer who falls for his childhood sweetheart (3270663)
3.55 Gardens Without Borders. A visit to the garden of Château Busseol, near Clermont-Ferrand (r). (Teletext) (s) (1872885)
4.30 Countdown. Words and numbers game hosted by Richard Whiteley. (Teletext) (s) (840)
5.00 The Late Late Show. Dublin's music and chat show (s) (4175)
6.00 Children's Ward. Drama set in a general hospital (r) (205)
6.30 The Cosby Show. American domestic comedy (r). (Teletext) (885)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (308156)
7.50 Comment. On International Women's Day, Lesley Abdela appeals for a return to the spirit of the suffragettes' fight for equality. (Teletext) (s) (935408)
8.00 Brookside. Merseyside soap. (Teletext) (s) (1224)
8.30 Teenage Health Freak. Comedy drama series starring Alex Langdon as a teenager with love troubles. This week he anticipates a very friendly reward from Amanda (Liza Walker), the object of his desires, after he helps her retrieve some lewd pictures (7589)
9.00 Roots Schmoots. (Teletext) See Choice (9717)
10.00 Northern Exposure. Offbeat comedy about a New York doctor practising in the wilds of Alaska (s) (9576)



Sexuality assaulted: an African girl (11.00pm)

11.00 South: Broken Mirrors. See Choice (45953)
12.00 Devil's Advocate. Darcus Howe discusses Rastafarianism. He talks to Trevor Dawkins, who was refused a job because he would not cut off his dreadlocks and was told that he had not suffered racial discrimination because Rastafarians are not an ethnic group (1326538)
12.45am Brown Sugar. The Lena Horne story (r) (354538). Ends at **1.45**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 2.15-2.45 Yan Can Cook (740040) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (9235040) **5.10-5.40** Blockbusters (6704972) **6.00** Home and Away (791446) **6.30-7.00** Anglia News (633069) **11.40** Crime Story (208750) **12.40** The Equalizer (4972199) **1.35** Sport AM (3939118) **2.35** Donahue (8327828) **3.30** Nightbeat (79828) **4.30** Riviera (10903) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (94731)

BORDER
As London except: 2.15-2.45 Graham Kerr (740040) **3.20-3.50** Sons and Daughters (9235040) **6.00** Lookaround (663) **6.30-7.00** Take the High Road (243) **11.40** Best and Worst of Sport (208750) **12.40** The Equalizer (4972199) **1.35** Sport AM (3939118) **2.35** Donahue (8327828) **3.30** The Beat (79828) **4.30** Riviera (10903) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder

CENTRAL
As London except: *2.15-2.45 Graham Kerr* (79474972) **3.20-3.50** GP (9235040) **5.10-5.40** Blockbusters (6704972) **6.00** Home and Away (791446) **6.25-7.00** Central News (633069) **11.40** Crime Story (208750) **12.40** McCloud (791847) **2.30** 60 Minutes (8326557) **3.25** Terrorvision (67362248) **3.40** Jobfinder (9843538) **4.55** Karn Bhoomi (79658118) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (2143977)

GRANADA
As London except: 1.15 A Country Practice (766088) **1.45** Home and Away (765359) **2.15-2.45** Island Son (7053359) **3.20-3.50** Sons and Daughters (9235040) **5.10-5.40** Hunt the Pie (6704972) **6.00** Home and Away (663) **6.30-7.00** Granada Tonight (243) **11.40** Paul McCartney — From Rio to Liverpool (208750) **12.40** The Equalizer (4972199) **1.35** Sport AM (3939118) **2.35** Donahue (8327828) **3.30** The Beat (79828) **4.30** Riviera (10903) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder

HTV WEST
As London except: 1.45 Stockbusters (765359) **2.15-2.45** Graham Kerr (740040) **3.20-3.50** The Sullivans (9235040) **6.00-7.00** HTV News (93214) **11.40** Life Goes On (208750) **12.40** The Equalizer (4972199) **1.35** Sport AM (3939118) **2.35** Donahue (8327828) **3.30** The Beat (79828) **4.30** Riviera (10903) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (94731)

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: 6.00 Wales at Six *6.30-7.00 Primetime*

MERIDIAN
As London except: 2.15-2.45 I Can Do That (740040) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (9235040) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (663) **6.30-7.00** *Country Ways* (243) **11.40-12.30** Miller and Mueller (119427) **5.00-5.30** Freescreen (94731)

TYNE TEES
As London except: 1.45-2.45 Brand New Life (2289392) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (9235040) **6.00** Tyne Tees Today (663) **6.30-7.00** The Dales Diary (243) **11.40** Prisoner: Cell Block H (591972) **12.35** Film: Operation Madonna (4046646) **2.00** Entertainment UK (96460) **3.00** Trans World Sport (80460)

ULSTER
As London except: 1.45 Fair City (765359) **2.15-2.45** Highdays and Holidays (740040) **6.00-7.00** UTV Live At Six (93214) **11.40** I Created Dracula (119427) **12.30** Pop Profile (3616995) **12.40** The Equalizer (4972199)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 1.45 Blockbusters (765359) **2.15-2.45** Gardening Time (740040) **3.20-3.50** A Country Practice (9235040) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (93214) **11.40** Westcountry Focus (717866) **12.10** Soap (2525422) **12.40** The Equalizer (4972199) **1.35** Sport AM (3939118) **2.35** Donahue (8327828) **3.30** The Beat (79828) **4.30** Riviera (10903) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 1.45-2.45 Brand New Life (2289392) **3.20-3.50** The Young Doctors (9235040) **5.55** Calendar (389601) **6.30-7.00** The Big Green Boat Show (243) **11.40** Prisoner: Cell Block H (591972) **12.35** Film: Operation Madonna (4046646) **2.00** Entertainment UK (96460) **3.00** Trans World Sport (80460) **4.00** ITV Chart Show (75314) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (94731)

S4C
Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (65717) **9.00** You Bet Your Life (97427) **9.30** Schools (492359) **12.00** Right To Reply (77663) **12.30** Slot Meithrin (28885) **1.00** Lift Off (35576) **1.30** Blossom (27156) **2.00** Film: Shopworn Angel (409311) **3.35** The Three Stooges (3270663) **3.55** Gardens Without Borders (4756392) **4.25** Slot 23 (3753779) **5.00** Countdown (5040) **5.30** Brookside (392) **6.00** News (144514) **6.10** Heno (722392) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (2576) **7.30** Sgorio (88972) **8.30** News (801137) **8.55** Pelydr X (190885) **9.30** Cheers (43791) **10.00** Northern Exposure (832311) **10.55** Roots Schmoots (196156) **11.55** The Secret Life Of... The Lift (459330) **12.25** Dream On (2547644) **12.55** Close

NETWORK 2
Starts: 2.00 Aerscoil (95322934) **2.15** Aertel (21153427) **2.30** Children's Programmes **8.30** Home and Away (90100088) **7.00** News (41000798) **7.08** Cursai (74268885) **7.30** Coronation Street (90199972) **8.00** News (59608137) **8.05** Blackboard Jungle (59538601) **8.30** Eerie Indiana (29042224) **9.00** Cheers (51666934) **9.30** News (13093243) **9.35** Italian Football (80164682) **10.30** News (32269885) **10.50-11.50** Larry Gogan's Golden Hour (40229882)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
6.00am DJ Kat Show (36852040) **8.40** Lamb Chops Play-a-Long (6319446) **9.10** Cartoons (2729663) **9.30** Pyramid Game (64601) **10.00** Strike it Rich (83885) **10.30** The Bold and the Beautiful (35601) **11.00** Hart to Hart (71392) **12.00** Falcon Crest (54224) **1.00pm** E Street (62408) **1.30** Another World (4547243) **2.15** Santa Barbara (371934) **2.45** Maude (370205) **3.15** Diff'rent Strokes (300446) **3.45** DJ Kat Show (5978066) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (9327) **6.00** Games World (4663) **6.30** E Street (8243) **7.00** Rescue (1866) **7.30** Family Ties (4427) **8.00** Alice to Nowhere (83137) **10.00** Seinfeld (27682) **10.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (58972) **11.30** Studs (69069) **12.00** Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (54446) **6.30** News and Business Report *(754804)* ***9.30*** Roving Report (35953) **10.30** Memories of 1970-1991 (24359) **11.30** Business Report (28953) **12.30pm** News and Business Report (28175) **1.30** Good Morning America (96576) **2.30** Parliament (8267408) **3.15** Parliament *(2948972) **4.30** News and Business Report* (4040) **5.00** Live at Five (34243) **6.30** News and Business Report (30137) **7.30** Special Report (2069) **10.30** Special Report (56514) **11.30** ABC News (19595) **12.30am** Getaway (52828) **1.30** ABC News (14441) **2.30** *Memories of 1970-1991* (37441) **3.30** ABC News (49286) **4.30** Special Report (41083) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (21248)

SKY MOVIES PLUS
6.00am Showcase (2150446)
10.00 Defending Your Life (1991): Comedy starring Albert Brooks and Meryl Streep, who meet on the way to Heaven (46205)
12.00 Blue (1968): Western starring Terence Stamp and Joanna Pettet (78717)
2.00pm Papa's Delicate Condition (1963): Comedy starring Jackie Gleason (96224)
4.00 Support Your Local Gunfighter (1971): James Garner as a conman (5089)
6.00 Defending Your Life (as 10am) (16088)
8.00 Meet the Applegates (1990): Farce *about giant insects posing as an American* family. With Stockard Channing (33148087)
9.40 UK Top Ten (546359)
10.00 Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991): Cyborgs Arnold Schwarzenegger and Robert Patrick Harris fight over the future *of humanity (58324137)*
12.15am Heart of Dixie (1989): Civil rights drama with Ally Sheedy (350489)
1.55 Screwballs (1983): Comedy about the sexual exploits of four teenagers (3544489)
3.10 Lethal Error (1991): A mother must prove that her son is innocent (7003896)
4.35 Emerald City (1990): A couple moves to Sydney (80814373). Ends at **6.10**

SKY MOVIES GOLD
6.30pm Raffles *(1939, b/w): David Niven* plays the gentleman cat burgler (89682)
8.00 Ode to Billy Joe (1976): Drama about a tragic love affair (62205)
10.00 Polyester (1981): Divine has an affair with Tab Hunter (511972). Ends at **11.35**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am Belle of the Yukon (1944): Musical starring Gypsy Rose Lee (81798)
8.00 Peter and Pompey Children's drama from Australia (53408)
10.00 The Creature from the Black Lagoon (1954) Anthropologists discover a humanoid fish (4548359)
11.25 The Hurricane (1937, b/w): A tornado threatens a tropical island (21560311)
1.15pm The Electric Horseman (1980): Robert Redford steals a horse (74120798)
3.20 Peter and Pompey (as 8am) (10725514) **5.20 Xposure** (4943779)
5.50 Avalon (1990): Drama about an extended Jewish family (52101232)
8.00 The Other Side of Love (1991): Cheryl Ladd is wrongly imprisoned (19175)
10.00 Friday the 13th (1979): A group of unlucky friends are murdered (29750)
11.30 Hitler's Daughter (1990): A child of Hitler runs for American president (452040)
1.05am Powwow Highway (1989): Two Indians take to the road (600422)
2.40 The Bingo Long Travelling All-Stars and Motor Kings (1976): The story of negro league baseball (225441)
4.35 Bluebeard's Eighth Wife (1938, b/w): Comedy starring Claudette Colbert and Gary Cooper (2840996). Ends at **6.00**

SKY SPORTS
6.30am Stretch (18359) **7.00** German Football (41175) **9.00** Stretch (30595) **9.30** The Big League (23359) **11.30** Stretch (14156) **12.00** Jack High (62682) **1.00pm** USPGA Golf (80576) **3.00** Football. Coventry City v Everton (18972) **4.00** ATP Tennis (5601) **6.00** Soccer News (470601) **6.03** Trucks 'n' Tractor (9779) **6.30** Goal (3359) **7.00** Football: Derby County v Sheffield Wednesday (435224) **10.00** Soccer News (391021) **10.03** Boots and All (47972) **11.00** Goal (75866) **11.30** Fishing (98595) **12.00-2.00am** Football (as 7pm) (54151)

EUROSPORT
7.30am Step Aerobics (26866) **8.00** Biathlon (54021) **9.00** Skiing (69392) **10.00** Skiing (15750) **11.00** Indoor Motor Trial (35514) **12.00** Motorsport (57750) **1.00pm** Show Jumping on Ice (73798) **2.00** Golf (38224) **4.00** Athletics (22175) **5.00** Skiing (7205) **6.00** Eurofun (7175) **6.30** News (8427) **7.00** Indoor Motor Trial (40069) **8.00** Football (59717) **9.00** Eurogoals (39953) **10.00** Boxing (32040) **11.00** Golf Magazine (23779) **12.00-12.30am** Eurosport News (66335)

UK GOLD
6.00am Rainbow (52358595) **6.15** Button Moon (52348750) **6.30** Raccoons (8167156) **7.00** Defenders of the Earth (2587953) **7.30** Neighbours (2506088) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (1113798) **8.30** EastEnders (1112069) **9.00** The Bill (1196021) **9.30** Duchess of Duke Street (6108953) **10.30** Chinese Detective (3519021) **11.30** Don't Wait Up (4903345) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (1116885) **12.30pm** Neighbours (6318311) **1.00** EastEnders (2586224) **1.30** The Bill (6317682) **2.00** George and Mildred (2037311) **2.30** After Henry (5730885) **3.00** Dallas (8927251) **4.00** Dynasty (7353066) **5.00** Candid Camera (2029663) **5.30** Give us a Clue (5734601) **6.00** Neighbours (5731514) **6.30** Duchess of Duke Street (1009663) **7.30** George and Mildred (5711750) **8.00** EastEnders (2057175) **8.30** After Henry (2036682) **9.00** Chinese Detective (2805243) **10.00** The Bill (1117514) **10.30** Frankie Howerd: Then Churchill Said to Me (1193934) **11.00** Dick Emery (6903525) **11.30** Film: Johnny Guitar (1954) starring Joan Crawford (1363330) **1.30-2.00am** Video Bites (7252151)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL
6.00am Stories Without Words (38446) **6.30** Non-Stop Cartoon Capers (9984750) **7.15** Widget (293458) **8.45** Jack in the Box (891088) **10.45** Stories Without Words (718576) **11.15** Non-Stop Cartoon Capers (9061601) **12.00** Boy Dominic (92359) **12.30pm** Mask (25175) **1.00** Jack in the Box (34156) **3.00** Widget (41224) **4.00** Spiff and Hercules (5972) **4.30** Legend of White Fang (1156) **5.00** Pugwall (6972) **5.30** Saved by the Bell (2408) **6.00-7.00** Fame (88886)

RADIO 3

6.35am Open University: Talking About the Enlightenment
6.55 Weather
7.00 On Air: Music, news and weather with Piers Burton-Page. Including Lambert (Valse and Bacchanale, Horoscope: English Northern Philharmonia); Milhaud (Le Boeuf sur le toit: New London Orchestra); Telemann (Overture in D, Tafelmusik: King's Consort); Walton (Capriccio burlesco: London Philharmonic)
9.00 Composer of the Week: Beethoven. Music from the last years of his life. Overture, The Consecration of the House (Berlin Philharmonic under Herbert von Karajan); Resignation (Fritz Wunderlich, tenor, Hubert Giesen, piano); String Quartet in E flat, Op 127 (Busch Quartet)
10.00 Morning Sequence. Russell Smith (Tetrameron: BBC Concert Orchestra under Lionel Friend); Arensky (Trio No 1 in D minor: Borodin Trio); Dyson (Nocturne, Quo Vadis: *RPO under David Willcocks*); Ethel Smythe (Concerto for violin, horn and orchestra: BBC Philharmonic under Odaline de la Martinez); Mendelssohn (Symphony No 5 in D, Reformation: Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra under Kurt Masur)
12.00 Vintage Years: John Amis presents a guide to the composer, pianist and conductor Benjamin Britten
1.00pm News
1.05 BBC Lunchtime Concert, from St John's, Smith Square. The *Quatuor Mosaïques* — Erich Höbarth and Andrea Bischof, violins, Anita Mitterer, viola, and Christopher Coin, cello — performs Haydn (String Quartet in C, Op 20 No 2); Beethoven (String Quartet in A, Op 18 No 5)
2.05 Opera News, with James Naughtie
2.50 Northern Sinfonia under Heinrich Schiff, cello, plays Mozart (Symphony No 31 in D, Paris); Shostakovich (Cello Concerto No 1); Schubert (Symphony No 8 in B minor, Unfinished) (r)
4.10 A New Symphony for Organ by David Gow, played on the organ of Peterborough Cathedral by Martin Souter
5.00 In Tune: Stephen Johnson *presents music and news*
7.30 BBC Symphony Orchestra under Alexander Lazarev performs Giya Kancheli (Symphony No 4, In memoriam Michelangelo); Walton (Viola Concerto: Tabea Zimmermann); Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A)
9.15 Out of the Shadows: See Choice
9.35 Henry Purcell's Fantasias: Fretwork performs the complete repertoire for consort. With Wendy Gillespie and Richard Campbell, treble viols, Julia Hodgson and *Elizabeth* Liddle, tenor viols, William Hunt, alto and tenor viols, and Richard Boothby, bass viol (r)
9.55 Trumpet and Piano: Håkan Hardenberger and John Constable play Ibert (Impromptu); Antheil (Sonata); Clergue (Sarabande et Rigaudon); Berio (Sequenza X); Virgil Thomson (At the Beach) (r)
10.45 Mixing It, with Robert Sandall and Mark Russell
11.30 Ave Eva: Sinfonye performs medieval English music in honour of the Virgin
12.30-12.35am News
1.00-2.25 Night School (except in Scotland: as R5 at 1.05pm)
2.30-3.10 Night School Extra

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.45** Business News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sports News **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.35** *The Week on 4* **8.43** The Sounds of Yesterday: Asa Briggs finds out what upset listeners during the war years **8.58** Weather **9.00 News**
9.05 Start the Week, presented by Melvyn Bragg and Zoë Heller. With Edward Said, Tariq Ali, Shere Hite and Dr Charlotte Hardman
10.00-10.30 News; Globetrotters (FM only): Arthur Smith chairs the quiz for armchair travellers
10.00 Daily Service (LW only) from St Anne's Church, Finaghy, Belfast
10.15 The Prophet (LW only): Art Malik *reads extracts from the* writings of the poet and philosopher Kahlil Gibran (1/7)
10.30 Woman's Hour discusses being Jewish in the 20th century with Ellen Jelford and Howard Jacobson; talks to Flora Purim, the Brazilian jazz *musician;* and looks at the history of the Ideal Home Exhibition. Incl **11.00 News**
11.30 Money Box Live: 071-580 4444. Lines open from 10am
12.00 You and Yours, with John Howard
12.25pm Counterpoint: Ned Sherrin chairs the sixth heat of the music quiz **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping
2.00 News; Thorne Investigates: Mortal Term. The second in a trilogy of plays by John Penn featuring Det Supt Thorne and *Det Sgt Abbot. Dramatised by* Melville Jones. Thorne's investigation of an attempted rape at a minor public school leads to murder. With John Castle and Andrew Branch (r)
3.30 On the Ropes: See Choice
4.00 News
4.05 Kaleidoscope talks to the jazz composer and pianist Chick Corea; and reviews BBC2's drama series, *Mr Wroe's Virgins,* starring Jonathan Pryce
4.45 Short Story: Tell Me Sandra, by Marian McCrath. Read by Stella Forge
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Just a Minute! *(r)*
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Food Programme with *Derek Cooper (r)*
7.45 The Monday Play: Nothing Happens in Carmincross, by Benedict Kiely. Mervyn, an Irish writer based in New York, has only joyful memories of Ireland. But a trip home serves to open his eyes to reality. With Ian McElhinney
9.00 The Beaten Track: Ian Ousby looks at the grand tour (r)
9.15 Kaleidoscope (r)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: *Different* Voices Same Tune. The first of seven stories by American writers exploring cultural identity in the United States. Going to Meet the Man, by James Baldwin. Read in two parts by Paul Winfield
11.00 You Heard It Here First: Whose Line Is It Anyway? Adlibbed comedy shows with John Sessions, Stephen Fry, Griff Rhys Jones and Kate Robbins (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.43am News incl **12.27** *Weather* ***12.33*** *Shipping* ***12.43*** As World Service (LW only)

On the Ropes. *Radio 4, 3.30pm*

Neil Kinnock, interviewed by fellow Welshman John Humphrys, comes across as a man who, though down, is far from out. He hints that RIP-type epitaphs are premature, preferring to offer definitions of purpose such as: "If we can't make heaven on earth, we should make a damn good effort to prevent hell on earth." What about "a real job" for the future? He already has one, he tells Humphrys. Being an MP.

Out of the Shadows. *Radio 3, 9.15pm*

Ian Christie's three-part history of European cinema during the 1920s begins with the German expressionist and French avant-garde movements, milestone films such as *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari, Nosferatu* and Gance's *La Roue.* These were the home-grown responses to the might of Hollywood, though Christie's contributors suggest that the fertiliser that nurtured them was often imported from the United States.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. **4.00am** Bruno Brookes *(FM only)* ***6.00*** *Simon Mayo* ***9.00*** *Simon Bates* **12.30pm** Newsbeat **12.45** Jakki Brambles **3.00** Steve Wright in the Afternoon **5.00** Lynn Parsons's Mega Hits **5.30** News '93 **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** Out on Blue Six **10.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** The Knowledge (FM only) (r) **12.30-4.00am** Nicky Horne (FM only)

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **5.00am** Debbie Greenwood **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.00** Sarah Kennedy **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Barbara Sturgeon **11.30** Angela Rippon **2.00pm** Gloria Hunniford **3.30** Roella Benjamin **5.05** Debbie Thrower **7.00** Many Happy Returns! **7.30** Alan Dell with Dance Band Days, and at **8.00** Big Band Special **9.00** Humphrey Lyttelton with The Best of Jazz **10.00** The Best of Syd Lawrence (2/6) **10.30** Ellen Jameson **12.05am** Jazz Parade **12.35** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5

News and sport on the hour until **7.00pm.** **6.00am** World Service. World News. **6.09** News About Britain **6.15** Europe Now **6.30** Danny Baker's Morning Edition **9.30** Johnnie Walker with The AM Alternative **11.30** BFBS Worldwide **12.30pm** Money Talk **1.05** Schools: Topic Resources 5-7; **1.20** English 9-11; **1.40** Poetry Corner; **1.50** Let's Move!; **2.10** Active Science **2.30** A Game of Two Halves **4.30** Five Aside **6.30** Scrap Iron **7.15** The Ghost of Thomas Kempe, by Penelope Lively. Read by Willie Rushton (1/5) **7.30** Champion Sport **9.30** Black Museum: The Trunk **10.10** The Mix, incl **11.00** Sport **12.00-12.10am** News; Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT. 4.30am** Waveguide **4.40** Travel and Weather **4.45** Programmes in German ***5.30*** *Europe Today* ***6.00*** News **6.15** Recording of the Week **6.30** Programmes in French **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Gods, Guides and Gurus **8.00** News **8.10** The Queen's Message to the Commonwealth **8.15** Health Matters **8.30** Anything Goes **9.00** News **9.05** Business Report **9.15** The Brain **9.30** Andy Kershaw's World of Music **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** It's Your World Phone-ins **10.30** The Vintage Chart Show **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **Noon** News **12.10pm** The Queen's Message to the Commonwealth **12.15** Ned Sherrin's Counterpoint **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Off the Shelf: Yakshi **2.45** A Taste of Soul **3.00** News **3.15** Commonwealth Day Observance **4.00** News **4.15** BBC English **4.29** News in French **4.30** Programmes in German **5.00** News and Business Report **5.15** BBC English **5.30** Programmes in French **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Programmes in German **8.00** News **8.10** The World Today **8.25** The Queen's Message to the Commonwealth **8.30** Europe Tonight **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.15** Meridian **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** Business Report **11.15** Sparks From a Precious Stone **11.30** Multitrack 1 **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** Quote, Unquote **1.00** News **1.05** Outlook **1.30** Folk Routes **1.45** Health Matters **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Ned Sherrin's Counterpoint **3.00** News **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** John Peel **4.00** News **4.15** Health Matters

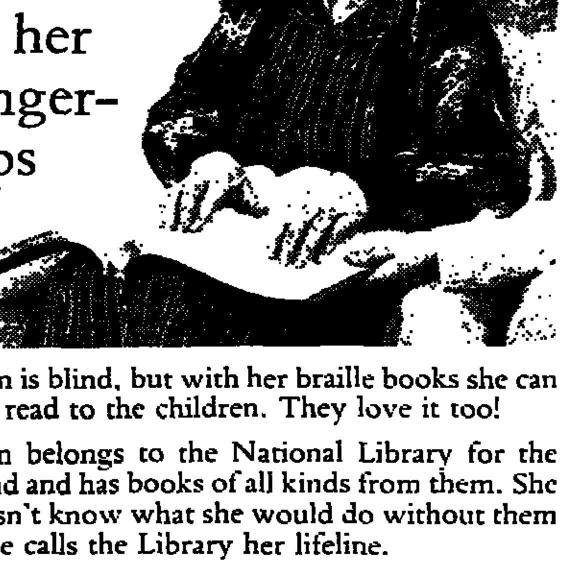
CLASSIC FM

6.00am *Nick Bailey* ***9.00*** *Henry Kelly* ***12.00*** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto: Mozart (Clarinet Concerto in A); Bach (Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C) **3.00** Petroc Trelawny **6.00** Classic Reports with Margaret Howard **7.00** Music of Britain and Ireland: The English Song **8.00** Classic FM Concert: Neeme Järvi conducts Prokofiev (Capriccio Bohemien); Medtner (Piano Concerto No 1); Rachmaninov (Symphonic Dances) **10.00** Adrian Love ***1.00-6.00am*** André Leon

FREQUENCIES: RADIO 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2:** FM-88-90.2. **RADIO 3:** FM-90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4:** 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6. **RADIO 5:** 693kHz/433m; *909kHz/330m.* **LBC:** 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. **CAPITAL:** 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. **GLR:** 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; **WORLD SERVICE:** MW 648kHz/463m. **CLASSIC FM:** FM-100-102.

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND HEATHER ALSTON

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BUSINESS

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HOW EXPORTERS SHOULD USE STERLING'S COMPETITIVE EDGE

MONDAY MARCH 8 1993

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

Wage deals fall to lowest for 13 years

BY DEREK HARRIS

■ Lower pay awards mean Britain will be better placed to compete successfully and avoid inflation. Optimism about the British economy among directors is growing

SHARP falls in the level of pay settlements are evident from two national surveys out today. The Confederation of British Industry says pay settlements are at their lowest levels for at least 13 years.

In the three months to the end of January, the average pay awards for manufacturing fell to 2.5 per cent and in private services to 2.8 per cent. This is the first time the CBI has recorded settlements running at below 3 per cent across the economy. A year ago, the comparable figures from manufacturing and services were 4.4 per cent and 5.1 per cent.

Further declines on a broad business front were predicted by Industrial Relations Services (IRS), the independent pay researcher. With many more companies agreeing pay freezes there are growing hopes of averting a rise in inflation, despite the effects of sterling devaluation now coming through.

A third survey, by the Institute of Directors, produces evidence that companies are absorbing higher import costs at the expense of squeezed profits. The IoD found that the surge in confidence among directors recorded at the end of last year had continued into the first two months of this year. More than half of directors are more optimistic about the UK economy, compared with 38 per cent in December and 10 per cent in October.

There were upbeat reactions in industry as the CBI showed how good productivity and performance gains were also also being maintained in manufacturing, further underlining how the English disease of unjustified pay rises could be on its way out.

Peter Morgan, IoD director-general, said: "With business confidence improving, volumes of business rising and prices being held, the prospects for non-inflationary growth in the economy are good." But he put his finger on a key worry for business amid the new glow of confidence: How far will taxes be raised in the Budget? Mr Morgan said: "It is now up to the government to ensure that no action is taken in the forthcoming Budget which introduces inflationary pressures into the economy."

The reaction of Howard Davies, the CBI director-general, was also enthusiastic. Of the low level of manufacturing pay settlements, which compared with 2.7 per cent in the final quarter of last year, he said: "This is remarkably good news. What matters now is that we keep up the progress."

He went on: "If we can do that we will be better placed than when we came out of the last recession to avoid inflation and to seize competitive advantages in the marketplace. Job prospects will be much better too."

The January pay settlement level is the lowest figure since the CBI started its pay data bank, monitoring manufacturing pay deals, in 1980. It excludes the increasing number of employers who have been bringing in pay freezes.

While 11 per cent of settlements constituted a pay freeze in the 12 months to July, since August just more than 26 per cent were at the zero level, according to the CBI.

In private sector service industries, from retailing to leisure and transport to financial services, pay rises fell below 3 per cent for the first time to 2.8 per cent, the CBI said. The service industries have been monitored since the beginning of last year.

The broadly based IRS survey reported that in the three months to the end of January, on a rolling basis, median pay settlements were running at 3.1 per cent, down from 3.6 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year. The 0.5 point slump in the rate of pay rises in the January quarter is the biggest fall recorded by IRS for a year.

IRS foresees pay settlement levels falling below 3 per cent by April or even earlier. This depends on current trends continuing, such as pay freezes, low inflation levels, unemployment above the 3 million mark and the imposition of "rigorous and austere" public sector pay restraints.

The IoD survey shows that while orders and business volumes are improved, profit levels have remained squeezed. This suggests businesses have been absorbing at least part of the price rises of imported materials and goods arising from sterling devaluation.

What seems to support that is a slackening of investment, with only 49 per cent of directors in February reporting action against 53 per cent in December.

Economic View, page 34



DENZIL McNEELANCE

Far East horizons: Denise Goldstone, who is setting up in Japan, watches Rachel Henderson, 3, model one of her designs

UK designer cuts a dash in Japan

BY DEREK HARRIS

A BRITISH children's wear designer and maker has made such inroads into the Japanese market that she is launching her own company there.

Denise Goldstone, who has dressed some of the Royal children, including Prince William, produces the Mini Minus range of clothes from her base at home in Wimbledon, south London. She started selling in Japan in 1988 and 73 per cent of her sales are now through Isetan, a leading Tokyo department store, and a range of specialist outlets.

Mrs Goldstone expects her business to grow 250 per cent in this financial year, and forecasts sales increases of "about ten times" in the next two to three years, much of it from exports.

Her main production is for children from three months to about ten years. At the top of her range are dresses for about £80, while there is a less exclusive range for volume sales in which prices are up to 50 per cent less. The Japanese trade has also provided an inroad into women's wear because the Japanese have a penchant for matching mother-and-daughter outfits. Mrs Goldstone has remained loyal to such British traditions as using Liberty prints, Viyella fabrics and Harris tweed.

She moved into the children's wear business 17 years ago after having difficulty finding the right clothes for her three daughters. Her first market was France, while other European trade followed.Later she expanded to America, but a rise in sales there ended with the stock market collapse in October 1987. Mrs Goldstone has only recently returned to the American market.

Having first explored the the Japanese market in 1986, she had to wait until 1988 for growth; sales had fallen in 1987 but have risen about 300 per cent since 1988. Mrs Goldstone praises the department of trade and the British embassy commercial section for their help in her Japanese venture.

As a Briton and a woman, she had a tough time making her way in Japan, where commerce is largely male dominated. But in time, she has become accepted. A key feature of Mrs Goldstone's Japanese company will be branding quality control — making sure her products appear in the right outlets and do not get downgraded. Most recently, she has been studying markets in South America and looking elsewhere around the Pacific rim, especially Korea and Singapore. She is also considering a move into franchise retailing in the UK.

Barclays chief to meet investors

BY NEIL BENNETT

ANDREW Buxton, chairman of Barclays Bank, begins a critical two-week series of meetings with institutional shareholders today, after saying last week he would not resign.

Mr Buxton is planning to talk with the heads of the City's largest fund management firms to give them details of the record £242 million loss that Barclays announced last week and the bank's recovery plans.

The meetings are part of Barclays's annual roadshow. Other members of senior management will also be meeting institutions in Edinburgh, New York and Tokyo.

The meetings will try to highlight the 18 per cent growth in the bank's operating profit before bad debt provisions and give details on how Barclays proposes to improve its lending procedures and risk management.

The bank lost a record £2.55 billion in bad debt provisions last year.

Mr Buxton still believes that he can win the support of the institutions and hopes the institutions will give him more time to find a new chief executive.

Last year, senior institutions staged a minor rebellion and even complained to the Bank of England when Mr Buxton became chairman and chief executive. They forced Mr Buxton to agree to appoint a chief executive as soon as possible.

The institutions will now want to see proof that an appointment will be made soon, although Mr Buxton has only said that the new executive will be announced this year.

Even though Mr Buxton became chairman at the start of last year, he has made *hardly any progress towards* choosing a new chief executive. A bank source said yesterday that he has not even decided whether to make an internal appointment or look outside the bank for a candidate.

The bank denied that there was any opposition from senior managers to the appointment of a chief executive. Mr Buxton is said to be working with Sir Peter Middleton, the deputy chairman, and Alastair Robinson, the head of retail banking, on the subject of potential candidates, and their final choice will be recommended to the board.

Glaxo warned about Zantac brochures

BY CARL MORTISHED

GLAXO, the pharmaceuticals group, has confirmed that it has received a warning from the US Food and Drug Administration over its marketing of Zantac, the anti-ulcer drug that contributed 45 per cent of the company's sales last year.

The FDA's letter to Glaxo said that promotional claims made in Zantac brochures and advertising campaigns, as well as a comparison with a rival drug, Tagamet, were not justified. The regulator wants Glaxo to write to doctors who received the brochures and correct what the FDA described as misleading information.

Glaxo said the company is co-operating with the FDA and has already had one meeting. It added that another meeting is planned. "We don't believe anything will happen to cause the drug to be withdrawn from the market," a spokesman said. "Our confidence in the product is undiminished."

The FDA's warning is an embarrassment to Glaxo, whose share price has come under pressure because of fears that the group's profits are heavily reliant on contributions from Zantac.

The drug still controls 39 per cent of the world anti-ulcer drug market, but that share is slowly being eroded by rival products including Tagamet, manufactured by SmithKline Beecham. An additional worry is the expiry of patent protection for Zantac, which will allow generic drug manufacturers to flood the market with copies. Glaxo has extended its protection in the US from 1995 to 2002, but there are fears that the patent could be successfully challenged.

Heseltine seeks more export cover

BY JOHN LEWIS



Heseltine: negotiations

MICHAEL Heseltine, the trade secretary, is asking for a substantial increase in export credit cover in order to push UK exports.

Mr Heseltine won an extra £700 million for this year and next in the Autumn Statement only last November, but this has been spoken for already and he is now asking for more in this month's Budget.

The cover has been increasing annually by roughly ten per cent of the total export credit exposure of £27 billion. Mr Heseltine wants a significant increase on the ten per cent.

Mr Heseltine's plan is still the subject of tough negotiation with Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but John Major, the prime minister, gave what looked like a signal of his backing for Mr Heseltine when he told MPs this week that he wanted industrialists to press ahead into new export markets.

The outcome is likely to be seen as another test of the government's recently much published commitment to manufacturing and construction.

Mr Heseltine wants to be ready to support exporters as the market expands and opportunities occur, not running to the Treasury every time the cover runs out. He and Richard Needham and Tim Sainsbury, the industry ministers, are talking of doubling exports before the end of the decade. They are conscious of potential markets such as China, where the government is planning to build 20 power stations, each of which may be worth £900 million.

The planned increase is part of Mr Heseltine's strategy of supporting but not subsidising industry, a policy that has meant calling a series of regional conference at which 100 highly successful exporters have tried to encourage others to follow.

The Confederation of British Industry is enthusiastically supporting Mr Heseltine's call for extended cover. The previous arrangements were considered miserly.

Economic View, page 34

Cook talks to Owners

BY OUR CITY STAFF

THOMAS Cook, the travel agent, confirmed yesterday that it was in negotiations with Owners Abroad, the tour operator which is fighting a £300 million bid from Airtours, its rival.

Thomas Cook has a commercial tie-up with Owners and said that West Deutsche Landesbank and LTU, the travel agent's German shareholders, were "looking at a number of options". These are believed to include a dawn raid and a tender offer as well as a full bid for the company.

The deadline for Airtours' final offer is March 16. It is offering 15 of its shares for every 34 Owners. A 121p cash alternative is available on up to 56 per cent of each shareholder's stake.

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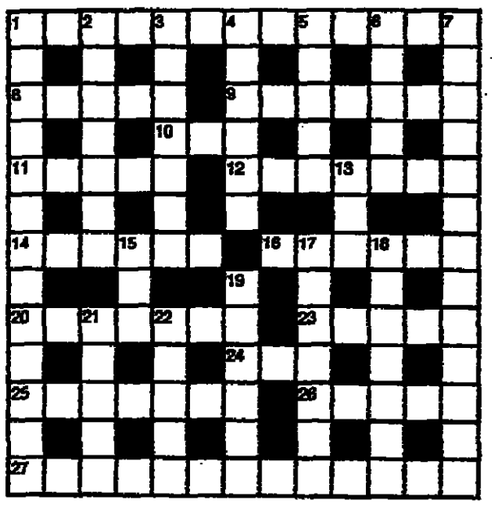
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ACROSS
1 Flout instructions (7,6)
8 Widow's interest (5)
9 Disgrace (7)
10 Precious stone (3)
11 Young lad (5)
12 Statistical calendar (7)
14 Clamour (6)
16 Strip (6)
20 Involving stomach (7)
23 Imprecise (5)
24 Cinque port (3)
25 Placid (7)
26 Magical symbols (5)
27 Confident and poised (4,9)

DOWN
1 Cranefly (5,8)
2 Cut wood particles (7)
3 Mediaeval city merchant (7)
4 Sycophant (3,3)
5 Get new weapons (5)
6 Viewed from rear (3,2)
7 By one's own admission (4,9)
13 Priest's white robe (3)
15 Baby bed (3)
17 Opposite (7)
18 Old artefacts (7)
19 Propellers (6)
21 Cranium (5)
22 Polish (3,2)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3039

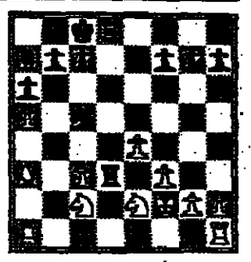
ACROSS: 1 Finalist 5 Half 9 Vinegar 10 Alarm 11 Stab 12 Weeping 14 Outset 16 Spigot 19 Roundup 21 Step 24 Badge 25 Roofing 26 Eire 27 Old flame

DOWN: 1 Five 2 Nonet 3 Legible 4 Scrawl 6 Amazing 7 Fumigate 8 Face 13 Horrible 15 Thunder 17 Push off 18 Spiral 20 Diet 22 Erica 23 Ogre

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By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Current world champion Gary Kasparov's style of play is highly reminiscent of the brilliant Alexander Alekhine, who he has always claimed as his intellectual mentor. This position is a variation from the game Verlinsky — Alekhine, St Petersburg 1909. Black has sacrificed a piece for this position. What is his best continuation?



Solution on page 33.

By PHILIP HOWARD

BRUMMER
a. An inhabitant of Aston
b. The locust-fly
c. A rum punch glass

TUDEH
a. Iranian Communists
b. The Phoenician letter T/D
c. Snob pronunciation of "today"

LINSANG
a. A herbal distillate
b. A furry mammal
c. Blue blood

PUNJI
a. A spiky man-trap
b. The language of the Punjab
c. A Sikh's underpants

Answers on page 33